

# THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Volume XL

JUNE, 1950

STATE LIBRARY Number 6



*Special Lamb Marketing Edition*



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# The President Reports . . . . .

## WHY:

Some time ago I suggested to Editors Irene Young and Casey Jones that I thought the readers of the National Wool Grower would be interested in a monthly report of what Assistant Secretary Ed Marsh had been doing. I had observed that Mr. Marsh had been meeting many sheepmen and others interested in lamb or wool and that few members of the Association ever had a chance to learn what he was doing. I got the idea over to Miss Young and Casey all right and Ed's first report will be in next month's issue. (He's on vacation now.)

But my idea went further than I intended it to because Miss Young and Casey immediately insisted that there be a "President's Column" as well as one for the Assistant Secretary. I couldn't object much because I have felt that members and subscribers have a right to know what the officers are thinking and doing, and I think the paper will be a little more interesting to everybody if it can assume just a little more of a "personal report" basis.

In the few monthly reports which remain before a new president is elected, I shall try to indicate the trends and happenings in our industry which come under my observation and seem to be important. Then at the next convention we will get the views of directors and members to determine whether the idea should be continued.

## WOOL PRICES AND "FLOOR SUPPORT":

Of first importance, during the last 30 days, it seems to me has been the widespread purchase of wool of all classes at generally increasing prices. Those of us who were in Washington March 19th and 20th and who approved a slightly reduced Government support price on medium wools are particularly happy over this turn of events. It was very obvious to us that the industry could not maintain its present strong position with the Government and the people if the Government were required to buy a considerable part of the wool when the rest of it was selling at generally recognized favorable prices. On the other hand, we were just as sure the industry did need and should have a reasonable "floor" support from Government in lieu of a tariff which had been partly removed and which was being considered for further reduction. The increase in the open market value of medium wools and the disposal of all stockpile supplies of shorn wools appear to me to be very favorable trends during the last month.

## NATIONAL WOOL GROWER MAKES THE DIGEST:

I wish to recognize the reprint in Reader's Digest of our December issue article on the "Shepherd's Psalm." This article, originally appearing in the National Wool Grower several years ago, has been widely recognized as a "classic" in livestock literature. It emphasizes the fundamental and timeless characteristics in this business of ours. I think it is good that the very broad reader audience of the Reader's Digest has now had the opportunity to understand more of our business through this very revealing article.

## MISSISSIPPI PASTURES:

Three weeks ago I made a trip to the sheep pastures of Mississippi. Believe it or not there are large and extensive sheep pastures in Mississippi, and many other pastures in Mississippi which would be sheep pastures if they could find the proper sheep. Mr. E. E. Grissom of State College, Mississippi, extension specialist in Sheep Husbandry, was my host. He is the secretary of a young but very energetic Mississippi sheep growers' organization. Grass grows the year around—often a little dry July to September but excellent for producing market lambs during the winter. I hope and believe it will not be long until N.W.G.A. will have a new member.

## BREEDING RAM SITUATION:

I want to make an appeal here for a sensible appraisal of the 1950 breeding ram situation. The California Wool Growers Association sale, May 8th and 9th, broke all records. Hampshires averaged \$173 and Suffolks \$156, with few studs sold and no outstanding stud prices. Range men just wanted the rams and had the money to buy them. Then on May 20th at Dixon, California 670 rams of very mixed breeding and of all ages averaged over \$100.

The National Ram Sale will be held at Salt Lake City, August 21st and 22nd. Casey Jones is seeing to it that there will be the normal supply of high quality rams available at this sale. The prices they bring will, of course, depend on the buyers who compete for them. If prices seem high to some buyers they should remember that the purebred breeders who raise and consign these rams have been burdened with the "highest costs ever" during the last few years and many of them have maintained their flocks at a high quality standard during years when there was no profit. If this year proves to be an "inning" for the producers of well bred and high-quality rams, I, for one, think they've had it coming for some time. However, I do not think that range men with money in their pockets should be so carried away with the trend of prices that they fail to make proper distinction between really good and poor rams. There never was a better time to "study our lesson" in the matter of what constitutes a valuable ram. We've got almost three months till the Salt Lake sale. Let's all plan to attend and plan to buy the rams at prices that represent their actual value in improving our flocks.

During the California Ram Sale Mrs. Vaughn and I were privileged to play hosts to Mr. and Mrs. Bryan S. Trolove, prominent Corriedale breeders of New Zealand. Mr. Trolove had been representing his country in recent wool deliberations at London and stopped enroute home to attend the annual Corriedale Sale, which, this year, was held in connection with the California Ram Sale. We found the Troloves to be most interesting and delightful company and I must say I have had an excellent "short course" in Corriedale husbandry.

Yours truly,

HOWARD VAUGHN





## Railroads make Good Neighbors

It's true, of course, that America's railroads literally border hundreds of thousands of American farms, but what really makes farmers and railroads neighbors is their dependence on each other. Farmers supply railroads with a large part of their freight business — and railroads, in turn, serve the farmers — assembling in major crop areas the great fleets of cars required for the dependable movement of the huge production of today's progressive agriculture.

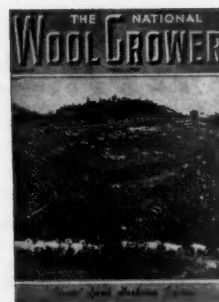
To speed and improve the handling of freight of all kinds, the railroads in the last five years alone have spent more than four billion dollars for modern locomotives,

new freight cars, heavier rail and new signal and yard facilities. All these mean better service to all railroad customers, and especially to farmers.

In providing the vital transportation the nation needs, the railroads build and maintain their all-steel highways entirely at their own expense. What's more, on all their property they pay taxes which benefit every community they serve. In thus sharing materially in the cost of schools, courts and other local government services in rural areas, as well as in towns and cities, the railroads are indeed good citizens and good neighbors.

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### THE COVER

The Montana forest scene on the cover this month was photographed in the Glacier Park area by Ernest White, prominent Columbia sheep breeder of Kalispell.



### NEW APPOINTMENTS IN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

William Zimmerman has been appointed Assistant Director of the Bureau of Land Management by Secretary of the Interior Chapman, a release of May 8th announces. Zimmerman had formerly been with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, serving both as associate and assistant commissioner for the past 17 years. He is reported as having "an extensive knowledge of resource development and conservation program experience, which can be utilized to a high degree in the Bureau of Land Management."

Royale K. Pierson, of Bismarck, North Dakota, was recently appointed chief of the Branch of Soil and Moisture Conservation Operations of the Bureau of Land Management. He was formerly with the Bureau of Reclamation.

### ARTIFICIAL BREEDING OF DAIRY COWS INCREASES

The number of dairy cows enrolled in artificial-breeding associations approached the 3-million mark in 1949, which indicated that one cow in nine in the United States probably will be bred artificially in 1950, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports. Artificial-breeding associations are now operating in 47 States and in Alaska, and increasing numbers of herds are getting the service of outstanding sires.

### NEW TRADE RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR WOOL BUREAU

Alan Peek has been appointed Director of the Department of Trade Relations of The Wool Bureau. Mr. Peek, formerly Assistant Director of Information, will handle



the merchandising and sales promotion program of the Bureau. Men's and boys' wear promotion will be a major part of his new duties.

He has been with the Bureau since its inception in February, 1949, when the American Wool Council and the International Wool Secretariat merged their interests. He joined the IWS in 1946 as Assistant Director of Information.

#### U. S. LAND VALUES SLIGHTLY UP AGAIN

Farm real estate values increased slightly during the period November through March, the U. S. Department of Agriculture said May 9th. Small increases in 19 States more than offset decreases in 20 States, raising the U. S. average by 1 percent since last November. The slight increase follows a downward trend which had been apparent in 1949.

#### TWO WYOMING SHEEP OUTFITS JOIN

The William Daley Company of Rawlins, Wyoming, has announced purchase of the Murray-McKay Sheep Company, also of Rawlins.

The transaction united two of Carbon County's oldest sheep outfits, and makes the Daley Company, founded in 1892 by William Daley, Sr., one of the largest outfits in the county.

The Murray-McKay Co. was founded 1863 by Robert Murray and W. A. (Scotty) McKay. It has been managed in recent years by Harold A. McKay and Angus Murray, sons of the founders.

P. E. Daley, president of the Daley Company, said the purchase included all of the Murray-McKay lands, livestock and equipment. No figures as to purchase price, land or livestock were released.

—The Record Stockman

#### IN READER'S DIGEST

The National Wool Grower came into national prominence when the June issue of The Reader's Digest hit the newstands, for therein is reprinted the article, "The Shepherd's Interpretation of the Twenty-third Psalm," which appeared in the December 1949 issue. The office has been flooded with comments by readers of The Reader's Digest, and we take pride in the fact that this deserving article first appeared in our publication.



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J. M. JONES

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IRENE YOUNG

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members \$8.00 per year. Entered as Second Class Matter, January, 1913, at the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103. Act of October 8, 1917, authorized August 23, 1918.

# A Point of a View

## A Seller's Market

By A. Z. BAKER, President, American Stock Yards Assn.

In recent years marketing factors have resulted in a ready active demand for all kinds of meat animals at prices favorable to the producer-seller. He has not, especially in the case of sheep and lambs, been forced to search for a market to dispose of his livestock.

Sheepmen have enjoyed "a seller's market." Last year sheep numbers had fallen to their lowest point in a great many years. The limited volume, in the face of steady consumer demand, caused prices to hold at high levels in line with other branches of the economy, while those of other livestock and livestock products were falling.

The temporary price excesses of "a seller's market" encourage the producer-seller to disregard factors bringing the condition about. There is a further failure to analyze carefully or consider the economics of marketing.

In these periods of readily disposable stock there is a tendency to multiply methods, to add to existing market places and to expect or demand unnecessary services. These things are possible because the margin between production and selling prices is wide enough to absorb inefficiencies and extravagance in marketing.

When livestock volumes were much higher, there was a marketing structure and pattern fitted to the cloth. Now in a period of animal shortage additions to marketing investment have been created. The increase in marketing investment is borne by the producer-seller in two possible ways: one, the costs of new marketing facilities must be translated into rates and come out of sales price; and, two, the tendency of a seller's market to become a buyer's market shifts the emphasis in favor of the purchaser. Competition is nullified by decentralization.

Thus "a seller's market," in addition to adding unnecessary costly marketing facilities, tends to destroy itself, not only by increasing production out of proportion to changing demand, but also by weakening or destroying effective marketing machinery. No farmer would build more barns than he needs or can use efficiently on his farm. Why must it be so with the markets?

This "seller's market" has been an abnormal condition. Already adjustments are being made. The downswing in sheep and lamb numbers has been arrested. Flocks are being rebuilt. With the terrific deficit this will not be done quickly, but the producer will need a correspondingly efficient marketing process and markets to assure sales outlets for increased volumes of production.

The cycle customarily will develop "a buyer's market," the condition where supply exceeds the demand and the consumer calls the turn.

To preserve a measure of security and a just economic position for the seller, the market of the future must protect the seller's interest. It can be a "seller's market" in the true sense—if not in a speculative sense.

Ideally a "seller's market," in the sense that it serves the seller, will be strategically and conveniently located adjacent to or in the normal flow of livestock from producing territories to consuming areas, in order to reduce rail and truck movements, costs of hauling, and damage and consequent losses from unnecessary circuitous or repetitive handling.

A "seller's market" in the future, regardless of temporary supply and demand conditions, must employ the method or methods most likely to return to the seller the greatest net price. This does not necessarily mean that it would result in the buyer

paying higher prices. It does mean that by avoidance of unnecessary speculation and intermediate sales or expense and by making it possible to sell or buy what one wants when and where he wants, both the seller and buyer may benefit. An organized marketing structure that permits buyers and sellers to meet at one place and deal out of and into first hands limits the repetitive steps in the flow of livestock from farm to packing house.

A "seller's market" will provide the seller with qualified sales agents. In a period of increasing production it can be fairly assumed that stockmen will devote themselves to production almost exclusively and will be unable, personally, to carry on marketing operations. Since the true demand for livestock is not merely local, efficient marketing calls for an understanding of supply and demand conditions that affect the prices paid by all buyers to all producers throughout the country. A market that fails to furnish outlets beyond its own immediate producing area rarely acts in the full interest of the producer or equals his supply with the broadest demand.

On the more important public markets, qualified sales agents may be employed on a per head or per car basis to add their selling skill and buyer-locating abilities to the immediately prevailing competition in effecting satisfactory sales for all kinds of livestock. The skilled producer and the skilled marketing specialist complement one another.

A market for the seller must maintain high ethical standards and observe fair marketing practices under impartial regulation. If the rules and practices unduly favor the seller, eventually there will be a general exodus of buyers. If the rules and practices unduly favor the buyer, there will be a general failure of producers to use that market. The marketing process must be fair and beneficial to all concerned. In regulated markets, those markets operating under the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, the requirements of that and allied laws assure the livestock producers a full measure of honest service. This is not only a requirement of the law, but above and beyond the provisions of existing laws is a long-established policy of the markets.

A market for sellers in the future must have a volume of livestock permitting effective selling and economical operation, attracting all kinds of livestock and, buyers for all kinds of livestock. All buyers are not interested in one species, one grade or one particular quantity. Buyers represent the needs and wishes of 150,000,000 people in all sections of the country. They seek a market which has types, grades and quantities attractive to the many segments of the consuming public.

Efficiency in operations requires large-scale operations. Marketing of livestock has much in common with manufacturing industry. There are great economies and better service in large-scale operations. Such operations make it possible to gather together in one place the best of facilities, management and personnel and the greatest number of necessary services. In addition, large-scale operations permit a reduction of per-unit costs in marketing, the same as in manufacturing. But more important, the concentration of large volumes of livestock furnishes attractive packages for every type and quantity of demand.

This large volume of marketable livestock makes possible a great service to the producer. The numbers he sends to market need not be sold on a run-of-mine basis. Skillful sorting and segregation according to grade by the sales agent increases the service to the producer and permits merit selling of all livestock. The owner receives the maximum price for each head of livestock as they are sorted into like marketing packages which are more attractive to the buyer. Unsorted lots often are of less value to the buyer, for they too often include unwanted animals and later segregation by the buyer at his plant disturbs operations and distribution to the consuming public.

"Seller's market" prices may lead producers astray. As they disappear, as they have been doing in the recent past, the seller must renew his view of the marketing process. In times such as these, "Let the seller beware, lest he lose the 'seller's market'."



# Forest Advisory Boards

ONE of the most difficult problems confronting the livestock industry in the Western States is the arbitrary administration of forest land grazing.

Every user of the national forest grazing lands has had, or very likely will have, difficulty with Forest Service policies which have not been determined by statute, but changed at will by Government employee-agents of the Forest Service.

Under this Government regulatory system of grazing administration there has been much abuse, misunderstanding, and lack of interpretation of the rules. The passage of Section 18 of Public Law 478-81st Congress does not eliminate the problem but it does provide for legalized advisory boards with opportunity for any party to present grievances to such boards.

If sufficient interest is taken by forest permittees to establish advisory-board function properly, many of the problems affecting individual permittees should be solved at the local level and not subjected to rubber-stamp action by various Government officials through the sustaining of a supervisor's often times unwarranted decision.

It should be clearly understood that these advisory boards have no power, but if the advice and recommendations of the board are overruled, disregarded or modified, the reasons for such action must be furnished to the local advisory board in writing by the Government agents.

Whenever a majority of the permittees on a national forest or subdivision petitions the Secretary of Agriculture for an advisory board, it shall be set up. The Secretary sets the rules and regulations applying to the board which must be composed of not fewer than 3 or more than 12 members, all of whom must be permittees on the forest in question. In addition a wildlife representative may be appointed.

Any permittee affected by the modification of the terms of his permit, the denial, renewal or a reduction thereof, may ask the Secretary of Agriculture to refer the case to the local advisory board for "its advice and recommendations." As stated before, if the advice and recommendations of the board are not followed, the reasons must be furnished in writing to the local advisory boards.

Such consideration of a difficulty by men acquainted with the area and circumstances should assist the Secretary of Agriculture to reach a fair decision.

The value of such a board depends, of course, on the interest taken by all permittees who elect the advisory board. The decisions must be fair to all parties concerned, and if fair decisions and recommendations are made it will be more difficult for the so-called "Forest Service wrecking crew" to pick off one permittee after another.

Section 18 also provides that 30 days prior to the issuance of a regulation modi-

fying existing policy with respect to grazing, the local advisory board shall be notified of the intention to take such action. This should aid permittees in keeping up on proposed changes of policy and provides an opportunity to make recommendations on them before they become effective. Again if the recommendations of the board are overruled or disregarded, the reasons must be furnished the board in writing.

Also, any advisory board may at any time recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture or Forest Service employees the issuance of regulations relating to the use of forest lands, seasons of use, grazing capacity and other matters affecting grazing administration in the area covered.

Such recommendations from a recognized group of permittees familiar with conditions should result in better grazing administration. Every permittee should immediately foster and assist in getting local advisory boards established. Your national livestock associations, which are responsible for this legislation, are anxious to assist in working out better relations between the permittee and the Government employee-agents through the local advisory boards.

-J. M. (Casey) Jones

## SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

### Conventions and Meetings

November 1-3: Oregon Wool Growers Association, Portland, Oregon.

November 2-3: California Wool Growers Association, San Francisco, California.

November 8-9: Western South Dakota Sheep Growers Association, Belle Fourche.

November 9-11: Washington Wool Growers Association. Place to be announced later.

December 5-8: National Wool Growers Association, Casper, Wyoming.

January 8-10, 1951: American National Livestock Association, San Francisco.

### Ram Sales

July 25-26: San Angelo Ram Show and Sale, San Angelo, Texas.

August 2: Idaho State Ram Sale, Filer, Idaho.

August 11: Oregon Ram Sale, Pendleton, Oregon.

August 21-22: National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.

August 26: Sanpete Ram Sale, Ephraim, Utah.

September 6: Colorado Ram Sale, Denver, Colo.

September 11: Southern Oregon Ram Sale, Lakeview.

September 29: Montana Ram Sale, Miles City.

October 4: Utah State Ram Sale, Spanish Fork.

### Shows

October 6-14: Pacific International Livestock Exposition, North Portland, Oregon.

October 27-November 5: Grand National Livestock Exposition, San Francisco, California.

November 11-15: Ogden Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.

January 12-20, 1951: National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado.

January 12-20, 1951: National Western Wool Show, Denver, Colorado.

## Railroads Losing L. S. Traffic

PRELIMINARY reports show that Class I railways in the United States failed by \$14,362,085 to secure as much revenue from the edible livestock traffic as secured by them under the lower rates in effect in 1946, according to Commerce Specialist Chas. E. Blaine.

The corresponding loss in 1947 and 1948 was \$12,932,711 and \$12,351,956, respectively. In 1949 the loss of revenue in the Western District amounted to \$5,527,479; in the Eastern District, \$6,947,500; and in the Southern District, \$1,886,706.

In 1948 the passenger and allied services failed by approximately \$560,000,000 to pay their own way, and this deficit in passenger fares absorbed 359 percent of the freight service net railway operating income. In 1949 the operating deficit, according to Mr. Blaine, amounted to \$649,300,000, approximately, and absorbed 48.6 percent of the freight service net railway operating income.

## Association's Stand On Tariff

Conclusions Set Up in Brief Submitted  
May 25, 1950, to Committee for  
Reciprocity Information.

In preparation for the trade negotiations set for Torquay, England, next September, the Committee on Reciprocity Information has been holding hearings this month and receiving briefs from producers of commodities listed for consideration in the tariff revisions. The brief prepared by the National Wool Growers Association on behalf of sheep and wool producers was submitted by J. B. Wilson to the Committee on Reciprocity Information on May 25, 1950. Several excerpts from the brief are printed in this issue.

1. We respectfully submit that a careful analysis of the facts concerning the trade between the United States and the countries with which announcement has been made of intention to negotiate and review trade agreements shows that the United States must not sacrifice its domestic sheep industry. Once this is done, our country will be left to the mercy of foreign countries for essential raw materials in peace as well as in war. Once a foreign country or an alliance of foreign countries monopolizes the wool market, the domestic producer would be put out of business and the domestic consumer in peacetime would suffer through a controlled monopoly, with possible price increase and during war periods would be thrown on the mercy of the nation or nations holding the monopoly.

2. The economic importance of the sheep industry, both in regard to employment and sound government through payment of local, State and Federal taxes in support thereof, cannot be minimized to the Nation as a whole.

3. Trade agreements were never established for the purpose of injuring domestic industry, but provision was made to protect domestic industry in distress from lower-cost producing countries. This principle should be applied in connection with the sheep industry at the present time.

4. An increase in the present tariff on wool and lambs would not unduly restrict foreign trade in wool. The United States has always produced less wool than was consumed. Government records show that the domestic market absorbs great quantities of foreign wool. Normally the domes-

tic producer has supplied approximately seventy-five percent of the wool needs of the American consumer. At present, domestic wool is supplying approximately one-third.

5. Most conservative government figures show that there has been a 44 percent liquidation in stock sheep since 1942, and reports show that liquidation is not over.

6. The principal reason for the liquidation of the domestic industry is uncertainty for the future.

7. The Geneva agreement certainly isn't "reciprocal." Of course, the word "reciprocal" does not appear in the Trade Agreement Act, but nevertheless it is expected that these agreements should be of equal benefit. This is clearly shown not to be the case, for while American tariffs are being reduced the legal limit for the benefit of the so-called "favored nations," these "favored nations" agree not to use all methods of trade restrictions to a greater degree or up to a maximum. If, however, they are in balance-of-payment difficulties (which most of them are) the foreign countries may apply any restrictions (which they do).

8. There is only one proper solution to this plight of the domestic sheep industry, whose production is below the needs of domestic consumers and whose products are essential for the protection of the Nation, and that is an increase in the tariff to the maximum legal limit for sheep, lambs and wool. Any other solution is a temporary expedient.

### TARIFF INCREASE NEEDED

It is time for this country to get on the offensive and face these practical problems. The law permits an increase as well as a decrease in duties. Domestic industry needs an adequate tariff (not a restrictive one) tied to monetary exchange to eliminate the value of manipulating currencies. The present subsidy program for agriculture is already in jeopardy and cannot long provide a healthy agricultural condition in this country.

## International Foot-and-Mouth Disease Program

METHODS of combating foot-and-mouth disease were considered in a Paris, France, meeting the weekend of May 19th by delegates from more than 30 nations. The meeting was a joint one held by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Or-

ganization and the independent International Office of Epizootics (epidemic diseases in animals).

The program against this dread livestock disease includes efforts to improve serums for vaccinating farm animals and to advance the technical training of veterinarians. Another important outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a new system of international reporting of disease outbreaks.

Included in the nations represented were: United States, Canada, Mexico, most of Europe, India, Pakistan, and several countries of the Pacific and Africa.

## Attempt to Recover Diverted Funds

CONGRESSMAN Frank A. Barrett of Wyoming, through the introduction of a bill (H. R. 8544) May 18, 1950, is making the effort to recover for his State in excess of \$102,000 due for roads and schools in various counties as a result of the diversion of funds by the Forest Service from the period 1926 through 1949.

The law states that "twenty-five percentum of all monies received during any fiscal year from each national forest shall be paid, at the end of such year, by the Secretary of Treasury to the State in which such national forest is situated, to be expended as the State Legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which such national forest is situated. . . ."

The law also provides that all money received by or on account of the Forest Service for timber, or from any other source of national forest revenue . . . shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.

The Forest Service, contrary to the above law, has since 1926, placed a portion of the receipts collected from certain grazing fees to an account under their jurisdiction, thereby by-passing the Treasury. As a result, the various counties have lost 25 percent of the funds thus diverted which should have gone to the schools and counties in which the revenue originated.

These are the funds that Congressman Barrett is trying to recover for the affected counties of his State and to which the counties are entitled.

During this period of years, Senator Pat McCarran revealed (April 1950 Wool Grower) that the Forest Service had diverted \$5,449,930. Of this amount, \$1,351,149 should have gone to the various counties in 15 States for road and school purposes.—J.M.J.

## Federal Research on U. S. Wool Needs

### Bureau Differences Hamper Report

Editor's Note: The following is taken from an article written by Harry E. Resseguie, one of the top writers for the Daily News Record, and appeared in that publication, April 6, 1950. There is no doubt of its authenticity and it certainly makes one wonder about the value of so-called research within the Department of Agriculture. A research staff prepares a statement based on study of an unbiased group of workers. The research study must then be approved by the various bureaus and departments. If there is anything in the study that displeases a bureau, even though it be true, they can black the report or hold it up beyond its usefulness, as the Forest Service has done in the case below. Although the report is not available and probably won't be for 30 days or more, what real value can it be after it is "doctored" by a biased agency?

**WASHINGTON** — Two and one-half years ago the Wool Research Advisory Committee of the Department of Agriculture approved, as the top project for the immediate future, a study of the Nation's requirements for domestic wool as the basis for a five-year plan for the American sheep raiser.

"Financed by funds appropriated under the Marketing and Research Act of 1946 the study was put into work shortly after the advisory committee meeting as an intra-departmental project of the Department of Agriculture.

### PMA Direction

"Direction of the project was placed largely in the hands of the Production and Marketing Administration of the department, but the Bureau of Agricultural Economics also was asked to cooperate in the study, and it was understood that it would be necessary to clear the report with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, of the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Defense before it could be issued.

"Today, the best information is to the effect that the publication date of the report is still '60 to 90 days' off. Every mechanical means is being used to speed the production of the report when it is finally approved.

"Departmental information is to the effect that the principal reasons for the delay in the publication of the report are two

in number:

1. Rewriting. One version of the report was completed over a year ago, it is said, but it was not satisfactory to the departmental chiefs and was reassigned to another team of researchers and writers.

2. Inability of the Production and Marketing Administration and the Forest Service to agree on the fundamentals of the report.

### Different Views

"The latter springs from the basic divergence in the viewpoints of the two agencies, both components of the Department of Agriculture. PMA considers itself the representative of the livestock producer and the farmer; the Forest Service represents the conservation interests of the country, the sportsmen's associations, etc.

"The Forest Service holds the basic viewpoint that the public lands west of the Mississippi, which represent the major portion of the range available to wool growers, have been grossly mismanaged and, as a result, have progressively deteriorated.

"PMA takes issue with this viewpoint; feels that the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior, which has administered these public lands and the grazing laws for a number of years, has done a good job, and maintains that it cannot see the deterioration which the Forest Service claims.

"Since the use of the public lands for the grazing of sheep during the next five years will be one of the highlights of the report, these divergent points of view are important.

"At a conciliation meeting about a month ago, called to discuss the current draft of the report, PMA and the Forest Service are said to have tentatively reconciled their viewpoints on the public lands issue. A source outside the department, however, says that this 'reconciliation' was accomplished by PMA withdrawing a number of statements in the report which were considered critical of the Forest Service.

"PMA considers the Forest Service its major hurdle to be scaled in editing the report for release. It does not expect much difficulty with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics or the Bureau of Land Management (which the Hoover Commission has recommended be transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture) on the public lands question. PMA and the Bureau of Land Management, in fact, think pretty much, alike on this subject. . . ."

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Daily News Record

## Tariff Reductions Affecting Sheep Industry

Excerpt from N.W.G.A. Brief Submitted to Committee for Reciprocity Information, May 25, 1950.

**T**HE sheep industry has been affected by this piecemeal and executive tariff making:

1. 1936, an agreement with France reduced duties on yarn, pile and knit fabrics . . . decreasing potential demand for domestic wool. It must be remembered that the domestic manufacturer is the only market for domestic wool; to reduce duties on their products affects adversely the domestic wool grower.

2. 1939, importation of rags from Great Britain was equivalent to 20,000,000 pounds of wool when the wool rag duty was decreased 50 per cent—from 18 cents to 9 cents per pound.

3. 1941, an agreement with Argentina reduced the rate of dutiable wools not finer than 40's from 24 cents to 13 cents; not finer than 44's, from 29 cents to 17 cents.

4. 1942, an agreement with Mexico reduced the duties on sheep and lambs from \$3.00 per head to \$1.50 per head.

5. 1947, Geneva agreement reduced the duties on wools finer than 44's from 34 cents per clean pound to 25.5 cents, and on mohair from 34 cents per pound to 22 cents.

(Note: The rates referred to in Nos. 1 to 4 inclusive may be reduced further by as much as 50 percent. The duties on wools finer than 44's may be reduced 25 percent.)

### New Officers I.W.S.

**R**EGINALD G. Lund, New Zealand member of the International Wool Secretariat, was made president of the IWS at its London meeting the first week in May. Jan H. Moolman, chairman of the South African Wool Board, succeeds Douglas T. Boyd as chairman of the Executive Committee. Many USA growers met Mr. Moolman and his wife when they were on their way to the London meeting with the IWS last spring.

Two important policy decisions were made at this year's meeting; namely, to increase wool promotion work in the USA and to establish a West Germany branch of the IWS.

In the United States, the wool promotion efforts of the Secretariat and the American Wool Council, Inc., are combined under The Wool Bureau, Inc.



# J. Byron Wilson

A Personal View by J. A. HILL

## J. B. WILSON HONORED

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws will be conferred upon J. B. Wilson, secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association and vice president of the American Wool Council, Inc., by the University of Wyoming at its 60th annual commencement exercises on June 5th.

Two former Governors of Wyoming—U. S. Senator L. C. Hunt and Leslie A. Miller—will be honored in the same manner.

The tribute to Byron Wilson written especially for the Wool Grower by Vice President J. A. Hill of the Wyoming University (dean emeritus after July 1) is so well done that about all we can say is, "Congratulations, Byron, for a well-deserved honor.—The Editors.

WHEN I was assigned the highly pleasing task of helping to prepare a statement of the work and accomplishments of J. Byron Wilson to be placed on his diploma when he receives the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Wyoming and the citation to be read to the public on that occasion, I began looking around for a written account of his life and accomplishments, in connection with his great service to the wool industry.

It is characteristic of the man that when I called on the University librarians to furnish biographical data such as appears in "Who's Who in America," local biographical histories, newspaper clippings, etc. they only found a few short newspaper references. One of them, more than 40 years old, gave an incomplete biographical sketch.

Yet, wherever one talks to wool growers, wool merchants, wool manufacturers, and men concerned with legislation for the wool industry, one soon finds they practically all know Byron Wilson personally and without exception all know of his work for the wool industry which is carried on in many capacities, but primarily as secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, an office in which he has served for one-third of a century.

This lack of biographical material about

Byron Wilson is only one example of his great personal modesty. While he has had an unusually good opportunity to use the printed page for self glorification, no one has used it more sparingly. The Wyoming Wool Grower, which he has edited since he established it about 1920, does not carry his name on the masthead. His editorial comments are usually placed in inconspicuous places without an identifying signature or "by-line."

It will be a fine thing if this highly deserved recognition of Byron Wilson by



DR. J. B. WILSON

the University of Wyoming encourages his thousands of friends to see that a complete and authentic record of his activities on behalf of the wool industry and the stockmen of the West is written and published.

I am going to make a start by writing the following consolidated account such as might be published in one of the standard biographical reference books:

James Byron Wilson was born 1884 in Harrisville, Ohio, the son of Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Wilson. He came to Converse County, Wyoming in 1886 where his father, a practicing physician, later entered the livestock business and helped to develop an irrigation project.

He attended the public schools at Converse County; the preparatory department of the University of Wyoming, 1896 to 1900; graduated from Peekskill, New York Military Academy in 1901; attended Oberlin College, 1902 to 1904; studied law in an office in Douglas.

Married Bess Lewin in 1914.

Engaged in the livestock business with his father. Secretary to the LaPrele Ditch and Reservoir Company, 1907. Secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, 1917 to date.

Secretary of National Wool Council organized as a result of a call from the Secretary of Agriculture in 1927 to work out a method for a national cooperative for marketing wool. This council helped to organize the National Wool Marketing Corporation in 1929. Wilson was secretary and general manager of this corporation from 1929 to 1932 and for several years following was director and Washington representative.

Chairman of the legislative committee of the National Wool Growers Association, 1941 to 1949. Vice President of the American Wool Council since 1940. Helped bring about the cooperation of the Wool Council and the International Secretariat in the international Wool Bureau, of which he is one of four American directors.

Chairman of the National Wool Advisory Committee formed by the Secretary of Agriculture under the Research and Marketing Act, 1947 to date. This is a committee of eleven members representing wool growers, manufacturers, and wool research workers. Member of the Wyoming Agricultural Station Advisory Committee since its organization in 1938. Editor of the Wyoming Wool Grower. Member of the advisory committee of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Member of the textile section of the National Defense Council.

Helped to secure the passage of the Wyoming Truth in Fabrics Law in 1921, which was the first of its kind in the world. Worked for the Wool Products Labeling Act which was passed in 1910. Was representative of the Wyoming Wool Growers and National Wool Growers and had an important part to play in securing tariff legislation, setting up the wool purchase plans during the war, and in other administrative rulings affecting the wool industry.

Office and home address, McKinley, Wyoming.

There are many omissions in the foregoing sketch and possibly errors of dates and titles, because I have not had a chance to verify it with the subject, and, so far as I know, no one has been able to get Byron to sit down and write a complete account of his many public services in relation to the wool industry.

Byron Wilson's work was well summarized by an associate who has observed him through the years:

*"In Washington where Mr. Wilson has labored for more than a quarter of a century to protect the wool growers of the United States his reputation for probity has only been equaled by the general acknowledgment of his ability. He has been indeed continuously 'the voice of wool' and he has been regarded by a long succession of Senators and Representatives in Congress as an invaluable source of information and advice. His influence is recognized not only by wool growers of the country but by the wool textile industry, wool dealers, and the great livestock and agricultural organizations which are such basically important factors in the economic structure of the country."*

This bare outline cannot begin to give a true picture of Byron Wilson as a man or to evaluate properly his services in behalf of the wool industry. When it was announced that the University of Wyoming was to honor him with a Doctor's degree, the common expression among his host of friends was: "It is certainly well deserved and should have been thought of long ago."

I first remember Byron Wilson as secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association at its convention in the winter of 1919. His father, Dr. J. M. Wilson, was then president of the association. Byron gave me the impression of a dutiful young man who was proud to assist his father who had been for a number of years an important national figure in the wool growing industry and organizations dealing with it. At an earlier time, Dr. Wilson had been vice president of the National Wool Growers Association. Owing to the fact that Senator Warren was president and could not always attend the meetings, Dr. Wilson had presided at several national meetings when many controversial questions were up for discussion.

I soon realized that Byron was more than a clerk to keep a record of the meetings presided over by his father. This was a period when new tariff legislation which finally became the Tariff Act of 1922 was under consideration. The wool growers and

their friends were divided on the question of whether to go back to the earlier practice of assessing a duty on raw wool at so much a pound on the grease basis.

Many of the older men in the association believed that this method should be retained, because the earlier laws had worked fairly well. They did not entirely trust the young "progressives" who advocated a duty on the clean basis as being fairer to all and more effective. Levying duties on the clean basis was opposed by a fairly large group of manufacturers who had had certain advantages under the old laws.

Byron Wilson was not in a hurry to take a position on the matter, but he did begin to study. I had access to the library of the University of Wyoming, and he called on me for information and materials about how the old duty worked and for information about shrinkages, grades, and prices which would help forecast what might be expected from the proposed new scheme. He studied everything sent to him including the driest reports, asked questions and sent back for still more information. Finally, he decided that the clean content duty would be best. He joined the others who worked for the enactment of the law which has remained unchanged in principle ever since.

The way in which Byron Wilson made his decision has been characteristic of him in all the years since. He has been a thorough student of everything connected with the wool industry and is constantly calling on others to help him gather information which will be useful in deciding the best course to take.

This attitude of the student and scholar has furnished him with the sure knowledge that has won universal respect, because people everywhere both in the wool industry and out have learned that when he speaks about wool, he knows what he is talking about.

A skilled biographer could make a great human interest story by tracing the development of Wilson from those early days, as a modest almost timid man, who scarcely trusted himself to speak, to the present when he is the recognized spokesman for the wool growers and wool industry throughout the world. It can be truly said that although he is personally modest and retiring, Byron Wilson does not let this personal trait keep him from speaking in a clear, firm, and authoritative voice when talking in behalf of the wool growers or the livestock industry.

Another outstanding trait is his indefatigable industry. Seemingly he never ceases to plan, work, and study. He still retains his ranch habit of early rising, but in spite of this, he is still going strong late at night. A man who helped him in Washington on various occasions said that anyone who keeps up with Byron Wilson when he is out calling on Senators and Congressmen will end up worn out at night. In the evening when a group who is working with him on committee hearings wishes to rest and relax after a long day, Byron Wilson will be planning for the next day, making telephone calls to line things up, and sending out for new information. He never seems to rest during one of these critical times.

His generosity to his friends to whom he gives freely of his time and money is placed high among his personal qualities. His hospitality, in which he is joined by Mrs. Wilson at their ranch home in McKinley, has carried out the best traditions of hospitality of the old West, and many people of the United States speak of the fine entertainment they have received. Mrs. Wilson has been a true helpmeet. She has aided Byron in the office and on the ranch as well as on the social side of his life. She is even more modest about her accomplishments than her husband. When it comes to helping him, she is the personification of anonymity.

One of his friends in writing to me summed up as follows:

*"Those who know Byron Wilson love him, admire him, and respect him. His labors have not been undertaken for profit in money, but they have yielded him a rich and rare treasure in friendship of all who have known and worked with him. No man is listened to with greater credence in Congress or in the Departments in Washington, and there is probably no man whose word carries more authority in all of the elements of the wool growing and wool textile industries."*

As I view the life and work of Byron Wilson after more than a third of a century, a few other traits stand out in bold relief. First, Byron Wilson is extremely practical. His long experience has taught him that certain things will work and others will not. This is partly because he has been progressive and in years past has tried a good many things which did not work. Hence, when someone comes along and unfolds one of these as a brand new idea, Wilson is not inclined to sit and discuss

(Continued on page 39)

# Self-Service Merchandising of Meats

Should Reflect Credits to Lamb Producers

By SETH T. SHAW

Meat Specialist, Safeway Stores, Inc.

THE self-service method of retailing meat is apparently here to stay. It was born during the period of man-power shortage of World War II. Standing in line was so much the order of the time that the elimination of one of the bottlenecks of shopping came as a happy relief.

Self-service merchandising applied to meats involves the precutting, wrapping and placing of the wrapped cuts of meat in an open-topped refrigerated case from which the customers help themselves. It is true that whether self-service or meat-cutter service, all meats have to be cut, displayed, weighed, priced and wrapped, yet the two methods of merchandising call for different procedures and materials.

In the conventional service meat section the meat cutter, who is indeed an artisan, not only cuts the meat but performs every other service in the section. His skill as a meat cutter does not necessarily carry over into his other functions. Many of the other services such as weighing, wrapping and displaying do not require highly skilled personnel to perform, and in time, the people rendering these services can become more proficient than the skilled meat cutter.

In the self-service meat operation, all of the cutting, weighing, pricing and wrapping is done in a cool, clean, well-ventilated room which may or may not be exposed to the customer view. All of these services are rendered in factory assembly line order, without any of these employees having to break into his operation to wait on the customers. Self-service calls for somewhat different meat cuts than service. The cuts generally are somewhat smaller, better trimmed of fat and bone, and a range of sizes in cuts must also be provided.

The meat cuts are then weighed and price tickets prepared. The ticket should show the net weight of the meat in the package, its grade, its price per pound, and the total price of the package. The meat is wrapped in various transparent pliofilms and sealed to exclude the air from the package. Discoloration in meat is an oxidation process, consequently, the life of the package is largely dependent upon the proper sealing of it. The importance of color in red meats cannot be over-emphasized, as customers are very critical of color and bloom in the selection of cuts from the

case.

The self-service merchandising of meats has not yet reduced the cost of rendering the service mentioned above. It has, however, provided a convenience to the customer. The consistent growth of this method of selling meat is evidence of the customer's approval of the idea.

The progressive retailer has always wanted to please his customers by supplying them exactly what they want and in the form most acceptable to them. The self-service meat department, now, for the first

time, assures the retailer that he is giving the customer exactly what she wants, otherwise she won't select it from the case.

The customer likes the method because she can take her sweet time in making her selections and she can make them on the basis of her budget as well as of her taste or the use she wishes to make of them. Many customers miss the personal contact with the meat cutter but they soon learn whether they can depend upon the quality of the meat offered them by a particular retailer. If the meat has been government

## LAMB DISH OF THE MONTH



Loin Lamb Chops, Broiler Style.

Loin Lamb Chops, Broiler Style  
 Julienne Potato Sticks  
 Head Lettuce Salad Roquefort Dressing  
 Hot Biscuits Butter or Margarine  
 Orange Refrigerator Cake  
 Coffee Milk  
**LOIN LAMB CHOPS, BROILER STYLE**  
 4 loin lamb chops, cut 1-inch thick  
 Salt and pepper  
 Onion, tomato, and green pepper slices  
 Cooked white rice

Set regulator to broil. Place chops on broiler rack, allowing 2 to 3 inches between the surface of the chops and the heat. Brown on one side (7 to 8 minutes), season and turn. Brown on other side, and season. Serve with garnish of onion, tomato, and green pepper slices arranged in stacks; and heated in broiler. Fill each pepper ring with hot cooked rice. Serve immediately.

Department of Home Economics,  
 NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD



graded they can use the grade mark as a guide to quality, as well as to determine whether their retailer is competitive with others, quality considered.

Now what has self-service accomplished or what may it in the future accomplish for livestock producers? It has been the almost universal experience of those using self-service that (1) it has increased their volume of meat sold and (2) it has readily moved into consumption many of the cheaper and slower moving cuts.

At almost every lamb marketing and lamb industry meeting for years, there has been some expression of the problem of lamb stew in the merchandising and promotion of lamb. The amount of lamb stew that a meat market could sell, set the limit on the number of carcasses it would purchase. In other words, lamb stew was the limiting factor in the merchandising of lamb. Our experience to date with self-service indicates that lamb stew now moves more freely than the balance of the carcass. It will indeed be a happy day when retailers can order enough extra stews (flank, ribs, breast and shank) to use up the residue created by hotels and restaurants, which can use to advantage relatively greater quantities of legs and chops.

With the exception of legs, lamb car-

casses lend themselves well to the packaging and self-service operation. Packages with two, three and four lamb chops look beautiful in the display case. Lamb stew looks so attractive — and the price being equally attractive — homemakers purchase it even though it amounts to a first attempt in making a lamb stew. There is little glamour in stew but it can be a most delectable variation in the family bill-of-fare.

It will be interesting to watch the customer reaction to lamb legs which are cut into two small roasts. We are displaying full legs as well as half. We are cutting sirloin chops from that end of the legs. Our results are satisfactory but time will teach us the most acceptable method of cutting and merchandising the legs as it fits in with the self-service method.

According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, there were only 400 complete self-service meat sections or markets in the United States, January 1, 1949. By January 1, 1950, the number had grown to approximately 1500. This growth speaks for the customer reaction to it. Retailers are enthusiastic and the very reasons why retailers like this method are the reasons why producers will be benefited by its results. Mass production methods have finally been applied to meats.

is adapted only to the production of food and fiber for this Nation. Except for the livestock industry, this land would be non-producing and non-taxable, and the whole region would be of little value.

The liquidation in the domestic sheep industry since 1942 has been of great concern not only to the industry itself, but to the Congress of the United States because of the need for the strategic products of the industry—meat and wool.

The table shows what has taken place in the domestic industry in the past eight years due to many factors. Chief among these factors has been the uncertainty of the future for the industry, which includes tariff reductions. Numbers of stock sheep on the farms and ranches of this Nation have declined 44 percent from 1942 through 1949. This, of course, means a corresponding reduction in the production of wool and meat.

## Rhode Island Site for Laboratory

SECRETARY of Agriculture Brannan announced on May 5th that the Department had signed an agreement to option a site on Prudence Island, a part of Rhode Island situated in Narragansett Bay for the proposed laboratory for the study of foot-and-mouth disease of domestic animals.

The authority to conduct research in this disease was given through Congressional action (Public Law 496, approved April 24, 1948). At that time some ten basic requirements were set up by a special subcommittee of the Senate. Included in these requirements were the availability of suitable acreage to construct a laboratory at reasonable cost; suitable transportation facilities; available labor supply for constructing and maintaining the laboratory; and its nearness to other scientific centers engaged in similar research. Since the law also prohibits the Department from bringing live virus on to the mainland, the laboratory had to be located on an island separated from the mainland by navigable waters.

Every caution is being taken in the erection of the laboratory to prevent escape of the virus, the Department declares. Only healthy animals are to be brought to the laboratory for research purposes and the virus studies are to be conducted in isolation chambers from which all waste and residues will be sterilized. To enforce sanitation regulations, the isolation chambers will be located within a walled compound with controlled entrance-exits.

# Tariff and Liquidation

From Brief Submitted by National Wool Growers Association to Committee for Reciprocity Information, May 25, 1950.

INCREASED animal agriculture" is recognized as one of the most important and soundest remedies for our domestic agricultural problems of surpluses, Government subsidies and regulations, etc. The domestic sheep industry should and could

play a very important part in the solution of these problems if only a realistic view were taken by the Executive Branch of our Government.

Grass is one of the most important and vital natural resources of our entire country. It is a recurring annual resource, if not used each year is wasted. Approximately ninety-six percent of the western rangeland occupied by the sheep industry

Year	No. of Head of Stock Sheep on Farms, as of January 1 Thousands	No. of Head of Lambs & Yearlings Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection Thousands	No. of Head of Sheep Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection Thousands	Percent Sheep Slaughtered is of Total Sheep & Lamb Slaughter PERCENT	Production of Domestic Wool in Grease Pounds 1,000 lbs.
1940	46,266	16,253	1,098	6	434,014
1941	47,441	16,980	1,145	6	453,320
1942	49,346	18,811	2,813	13	454,997
1943	48,196	18,466	4,897	21	444,043
1944	44,270	18,263	3,613	17	411,818
1945	39,609	16,776	4,444	21	378,449
1946	35,599	16,535	3,350	17	341,787
1947	32,125	14,374	2,292	14	309,398
1948	29,976	12,848	2,495	16	280,524
1949	27,818	10,883	1,254	10	253,350

SOURCE: "Livestock Market News Statistics and Related Data 1948"; also "Livestock Market News" for January 28, 1949 and March 4, 1949.



Highest pen price in California Ram Sale history was paid for these seven Hampshire rams at the 1950 event. They were entered by Roy Heise of Gardnerville, Nevada, and purchased by Ed. J. Nunes of Clovis, California, at \$320 per head.

## California Sale Tops 30-Year Record

HIGHEST point of interest in the black-face sale was the auctioning of a pen of seven Hampshire range rams consigned by Roy Heise, Gardnerville, Nevada. Successful bidder at \$320 per head was Ed J. Nunes, Clovis, California. This price for a pen of range rams was unheard of in the history of the California sale. Woodland Farms, Woodland, California, paid \$300 per head for five Heise rams, and Jean P. Arburua, Los Banos, California, paid \$250 per head, also a record-breaking pen price, for ten Hampshire range rams consigned by Heise. Heise also sold the top Hampshire stud for \$500 to D. P. McCarthy and Son, Salem, Oregon. Three Hampshire stud rams reached \$350 in a heated bidding. Two of these sales were made by C. M. Hubbard and Son, Junction City, Oregon, and the other by Roy Heise. Buyers were Buckman and Vassar, Dixon, California; Fresno State College; and John B. Pestoni of San Juan Bautista, California.

High price for Suffolks was \$350 paid by the 3-R Ranch of Santa Rosa, California, for a stud ram consigned by Dr. R. Bulman, also of Santa Rosa. Four other Suffolks stud rams hit the \$300 mark. They were consigned by Walter P. Hubbard, Junction City, Oregon; Ervin E. Vassar, Dixon; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Coble, Winters, California, and Broadmead Farms, Amity, Oregon. Buyers were O. E. Tracy, Chico, California; Howard Faught, Santa Rosa,

California; University of Wyoming; and Tooby Brothers.

California was favored this year with the 4th Annual All-American Corriedale Show held on Sunday, May 7th at the Ram Sale

grounds. Entries were shown from Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah, and California. The rams judged in this show then took the spotlight at the whiteface auction at the ram sale on Tuesday, May 9th. High-selling ram at the All-American show and also topper of the entire auction was a Corriedale stud ram consigned by Art King, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and purchased by the Leslie and Lee Crane Ranch, Santa Rosa, California, for \$800. Wesley Wooden, of Dixon, California, sold the second highest Corriedale for \$475 to William Campbell, also of Dixon. Other offerings in the second day's selling included Southdowns, Rambouillets, Romeldales, and Columbias. Tops were as follows:

\$305 paid by G. L. Crane, Santa Rosa, for a Southdown consigned by Eldon Riddell of Independence, Oregon; \$310 paid by Glenn Maddux, Bakersfield, California, for a Rambouillet stud ram consigned by Noelke and Owens, Sheffield, Texas; \$200 paid by Walter Wiswell of Lincoln, California, for a Romeldale stud ram consigned by A. T. Spencer of Winters, California; \$175 paid by C. C. Anderson of Birds Landing, California, for each of two Columbias consigned by Campbell Ranch, Dixon, California. The whiteface sale also tallied better average prices than those paid in last year's California auction.

The 1376 head of animals sold in the

### CALIFORNIA SALE AVERAGES, 1949-1950

BREEDS	No.	1950		1949	
		Avg. Price		Avg. Price	
<b>Hampshires:</b>					
Stud Rams	22	\$220.23	24	\$139.79	
Range Rams	543	172.64	584	85.04	
Ewes	9	103.33	29	41.48	
<b>Suffolks:</b>					
Stud Rams	15	242.67	14	217.86	
Range Rams	454	157.88	466	84.94	
Ewes	26	99.42	70	43.68	
<b>Corriedales:</b>					
Stud Rams	32	248.59	6	259.00	
Range Rams	76	120.75	77	81.92	
Ewes	60	98.83	29	53.43	
<b>Rambouillets:</b>					
Stud Rams	2	242.50	2	95.00	
Range Rams	22	101.25	24	92.91	
<b>Romeldales:</b>					
Stud Rams	1	200.00	1	145.00	
Range Rams	14	129.29	14	111.07	
<b>Southdowns:</b>					
Stud Rams	5	148.50	3	120.73	
Range Rams	15	92.50	16	72.18	
Ewes	10	97.50	.....	.....	
<b>Romneys:</b>					
Stud Rams	.....	.....	2	115.00	
Range Rams	.....	.....	2	60.00	
<b>Columbias:</b>					
Stud Rams	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Range Rams	34	113.31	47	100.69	



Top-selling stud ram at the 1953 California Ram Sale. A Corriedale sold by Art King, Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Leslie L. and Lee Crane. Price, \$800. (Lee Crane at right.)

1950 California Sale averaged \$157.26 per head. Last year's average was \$82.93 on 1505 rams and ewes, and in 1948, 1160 animals made a \$99.13 average.

—E. E. Marsh

## New Zealanders at California Sale

**D**ISTINGUISHED visitors at the recent California Ram Sale were Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Trollove of Kaikoura, Marlborough, New Zealand. A Corriedale stud breeder, Mr. Trollove, while passing through San Francisco enroute to an Empire wool conference in the British Isles, was invited by the American Corriedale Association to attend the All-American Corriedale Show and Sale held this year in conjunction with the 30th California Ram Sale.

"The Corriedale breed originated in New Zealand in 1866," Mr. Trollove stated. "King Brothers of Wyoming, I believe, made the first importation of the breed into the U. S. in 1913. From New Zealand the Corriedale has spread to many parts of the world and is the largest or second largest breed in numbers in addition to New Zealand, in Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and South Africa. The Corriedale is also the third in numbers among registered sheep in the United States, I am told."

The New Zealander, when asked what breed is behind the well-known Canterbury lambs, said, "They are the result of the mating of a Southdown ram with a Corriedale ewe; a Leicester ram and a Corriedale ewe, or are straight Corriedale lambs. From 12 to 15 million lamb carcasses are slaughtered, frozen and exported to England each year. The carcasses dress out between 30 and 45 pounds."

One of Mr. Trollove's interesting observations of sheep operations in the United States is that our production shows too

much mixed breeding—that it is not sufficiently standardized. In New Zealand, he said, they breed from straight lines of sheep; either Romneys in the heavy rainfall areas (50 inches and upward) of the North Island, and Corriedales in the South Island where the rainfall varies from 15 to 40 inches a year. The only other breed of any importance in New Zealand is the Merino, which is run on all the highest and roughest country, chiefly because Merinos are easy to herd, or as Mr. Trollove stated it, "easy to muster." Merinos, however, constitute only three percent of the sheep population of New Zealand.

Great advances in the breeding and selection of grasses and clovers which produce more food value and last longer than their former pastures are being made through work done in agricultural colleges of New Zealand. Generally speaking, Mr. Trollove said, irrigation is not practiced to any great extent there.

The New Zealand shearing season is in the "spring,"—which is October, November and December. Of late years the practice has grown up there to shear in August at the end of the "winter" just before the ewes lamb, and New Zealand producers have found from experience, Mr. Trollove reports, that shorn sheep at that time of the year have more resistance to shock than in the hotter weather of the late spring. One advantage of this is that a shorn ewe about to lamb, when a storm comes up, will seek shelter, for her own protection, whereas a ewe in the wool will lamb out in the cold. They normally have trouble with ewes in the wool, he said, lying on their backs around lambing time while a ewe shorn before lambing does not get "cast."

Mr. Trollove has range sheep and cattle in addition to his purebred Corriedale herd. His cattle are predominantly Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus, fattened for beef purposes, chiefly for local consumption. Only a small proportion of their beef is frozen. They find cattle necessary on the range to keep the grass uniformly grazed for the benefit of good sheep production.

He sells his purebred Corriedales to commercial producers all over New Zealand. New Zealand breeders also enjoy a large export trade in rams and before the war sold more horses, cattle and sheep for export than all the other countries put together. The chief countries to which New Zealand Corriedales are now shipped are Australia, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile.

A speaker at the annual Shepherd's Dinner, held in connection with the California Ram Sale, Mr. Trollove was critical of livestock shows in this country; said that

breeders apparently have been over-zealous in practicing show ring tricks imported from England. In New Zealand, he declared, sheep are judged without owners or handlers in the ring where breed deficiencies cannot be covered up from the eyes of the judge.—E. E. Marsh

## Corriedale Association Elects Officers

**T**RUETT Stanford, Eldorado, Texas, was elected president of the American Corriedale Association at an annual meeting held May 8th in Sacramento, California. He succeeds Wesley Wooden, Davis, California. Ray Gatewood, Caledonia, Ohio, was elected vice president. Election was also held for an executive board member to succeed Clyde Gebhardt, Salem, Wisconsin, whose term expires this year; Lee Crane of Santa Rosa, California, was chosen for this position. Other members of the board are E. E. Cooper, Durand, Michigan, and Sam Murrell, Lancaster, Missouri. Rollo E. Singleton, Columbia, Missouri, is secretary of the organization.

A Production Records program embracing four parts was inaugurated at this meeting, following a year of study in committee. The program is designed to provide breeder participation at four levels, ranging from simple record-keeping for the beginning breeder through ewe cards provided by the association to an eventual Register of Merit which will require a maximum of verified records on the part of the breeder. The program includes special merit awards for owners of Corriedales of unusual attainment in specific qualities, as well as a flock performance division which will allow every breeder to determine the comparative merit of his flock in relation to other flocks in his area and to measure the progress of his own flock from year to year.

The association also voted to send a delegate to the International Corriedale Type Conference to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, November 9-16, 1950, which will coincide with the time of the Royal Show in that country.

Delegates from Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, and South Africa are expected to attend this conference. Invitation to the American Association was extended by the Council of the Corriedale Sheep Society, represented by B. S. Trollove, Kaikoura, Marlborough, N. Z., who attended the All-American Corriedale Sale and conducted an instructive type conference in connection with that event.

—R. E. Singleton, Secretary





Figure 1. Rambouillet yearling ewe with an open face.



Figure 2. Rambouillet yearling ewe with a partially covered face.



Figure 3. Rambouillet yearling ewe with a covered face.

# More Lambs from Open-Faced Ewes

By CLAIR E. TERRILL  
United States Department of Agriculture\*

WOOL covering has been developed on the face of some breeds of sheep because early breeders thought that covered faces meant heavier fleece weights. The Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture questioned this many years ago. F. R. Marshall in the National Wool Grower of April, 1920, reported some early work of the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho. He found that open-faced Rambouillet ewes had heavier fleece and body weights than wool-blind ewes. These results were later confirmed by other Bureau of Animal Industry workers in a technical Bulletin published in 1928. More recent work from this Station reported at the meetings of the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Production at Logan, Utah, in 1941 and in the Montana Wool Grower of January, 1944, showed that ewes with open faces produce more pounds of lambs than those with covered faces. These results were supported by later work in Texas and Canada. The object of this report is to present more recent studies on the relation of face covering to lamb and wool production.

Records from the Rambouillet flock of the Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory, Dubois, Idaho, were studied to obtain further information on the effect of wool on the face on lamb and wool production. The 798 ewes, born from 1938 to 1940 that were saved for breeding, were divided into three groups based on the extent of wool covering on the face at yearling age. These groups are illustrated in the accom-

panying photographs. Figure 1 shows an open-faced ewe; figure 2 shows a ewe with a partially covered face; and figure 3 shows one with a covered face. The last two groups are apt to become wool blind, although those with covered faces would become wool blind more quickly than those with partially covered faces. Lamb and wool production was studied for each year of age through the first five lambing years. All ewes having one or more lambing years were included.

The ewes were maintained under typical range conditions for the Intermountain West. They were herded on sagebrush-grass range near Dubois, Idaho, from the latter part of September until breeding in November or December. They were fed hay and bred in pens for about 30 to 34 days. After an interval of a few days a few rams were turned in for range breeding for an additional 15 to 30 days. The ewes were herded on the fall or winter range until sometime in January, when they were taken to the feed lot and fed alfalfa hay until the spring range was ready in the latter part of April. A protein supplement of oats was fed from about a month before lambing until the ewes were turned on the spring range. The lambs were born in April and May and were herded with their dams on the sagebrush-grass range until about July 1, when the flock was trailed to the high summer range near the Targhee Forest. They remained on the summer range until weaning time in the latter part of August. The average age at weaning was about 130 days.

All ewes included in this study which were subject to wool blindness had wool clipped from around the eyes about three

times a year. The differences in production occurred in spite of this corrective treatment.

Open-faced ewes excelled those with covered faces in every phase of lamb production including percent of ewes lambing, percent of lambs born of ewes lambing, percent of live lambs of lambs born, percent of lambs weaned of live lambs born, and average weaning weight. Ewes with open faces weaned 11 percent more lambs and 11 more pounds of lamb per ewe bred than those with covered faces. Open-faced ewes excelled covered-faced ewes at each year of age.

Production of ewes with partially covered faces was more nearly equal to that of open-faced ewes than to covered-faced ewes for most features of lamb production. They weaned 9 percent more lambs and 8 pounds more lamb per ewe bred than ewes with covered faces. This shows that some progress toward more open faces pays off immediately in increased lamb production.

The most important factor in which the ewes with open faces were superior to those with covered faces was the greater number of lambs born per ewe lambing. Other factors in the order of importance were heavier weaning weights of lambs, a higher proportion of ewes having lambs, and a higher proportion of lambs weaned of lambs born alive.

There was a slight relationship between covered faces and increased wool production but this was not large enough to be important. Covered-faced ewes appeared to have slightly heavier fleeces (about 0.1 pound heavier grease fleece weight or 0.05

(Continued on page 34)

\*Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory, Dubois, Idaho

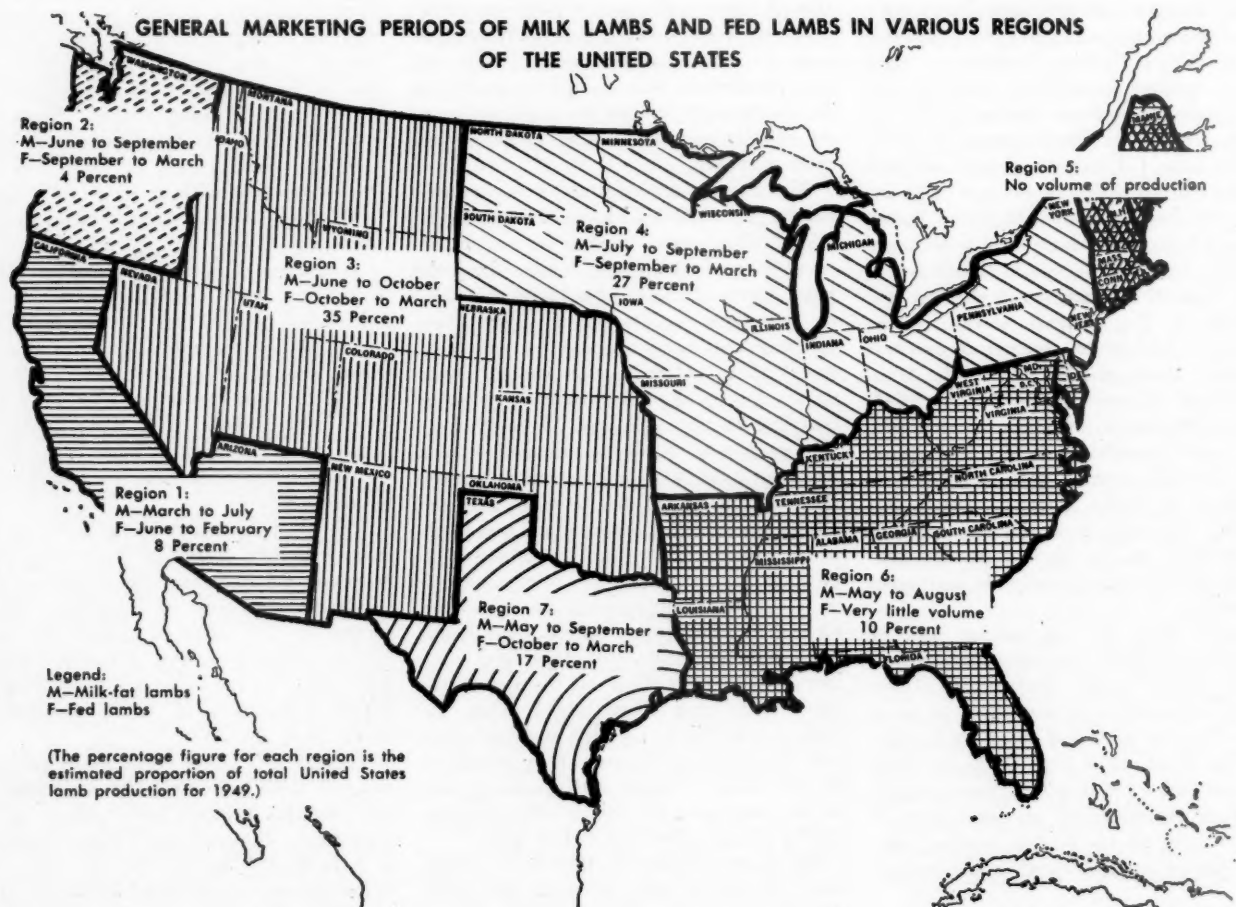
# Selling Lambs

*This is an excerpt from "What About Sheep?" recently published by the National Wool Growers Association. The booklet, which is copyrighted, is available to members of the National Wool Growers Association without cost.*

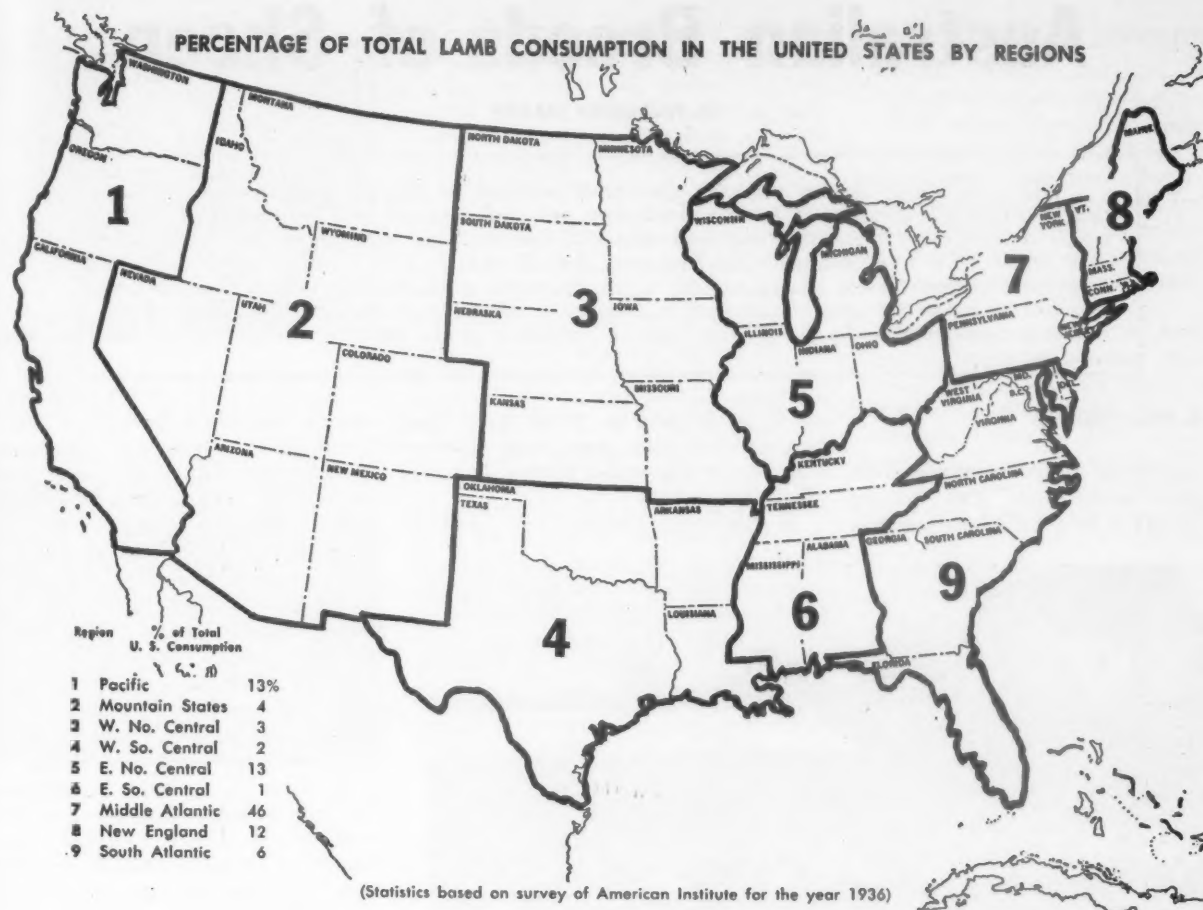
**L**AMBS may be sold directly to the packing houses which process them for consumption; they may be shipped to commission companies at centrally located stockyards and sold by them; or they may be sold to dealers who travel about the country and who then re-sell direct or through commission men to the ultimate processor. In any of these systems of sale, it behooves the grower to inform himself on the actual value of the lambs that he has for sale. It is obviously poor business to spend 12 months in careful selection of

breeding stock, in anticipating the needs of sheep in feed and care, in arriving finally with a good crop of lambs to sell, and then because of a lack of knowledge of their actual value at the time, being unable to recover full current value for them. There are many sheep owners like other growers of agricultural products who assume that because they get the same or a small amount more for their product than their neighbor has received, that they have done a good job of salesmanship. The National Wool Growers Association desires to point

out that this is not a proper method of determining values. The National Wool Growers organization, as well as the various State organizations affiliated with it, are continually keeping their members advised as to the current value of all classes of sheep and lambs. It behooves a grower to keep himself up-to-date on current prices whenever he has any sheep or lambs to sell. The values of lambs, for instance, on all of the leading livestock markets in the United States are published daily in the leading newspapers. Growers should



# PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LAMB CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES BY REGIONS



learn to read these market reports and to be able to interpret them in the light of the animals they have for sale. Growers should also study the market on dressed lambs of the various grades in the leading lamb consuming centers of the country so that they will be better able to appraise the probable market value of their own lambs when and if they are shipped to market. Furthermore, because of the fact that few shipments or lots of lamb contain all lambs of the same grade or quality, it is necessary for the growers to estimate the probable current value of the actual lot of lambs which he has to sell at any given time. Obviously this is not an easy task nor is it to be accomplished with any degree of success without considerable experience, but it is positively the goal toward which every grower should aspire. Here are a few DO's and DON'T's established by those who have extensive experience in the business, which may be of value to beginners:

1. DO NOT deliver lambs to any unknown buyer except on receipt of cash in hand.

2. DO NOT ship lambs to any commission firms except those who are approved on regularly established markets.
3. DO NOT ship lambs to central markets without first consulting your commission company concerning their time of arrival.
4. DO NOT contract for future delivery of lambs without knowing the buyer's reputation and requiring a contract with an appropriate deposit.
5. DO watch the development of your lambs closely when they approach salable age so that you will not hold them beyond the point of their maximum value to the market.
6. DO cultivate the acquaintance of more than one buyer or dealer on more than one market so that when sale time comes, you will be in a position to place your lambs on the market which is most favorable to yourself.
7. DO cultivate a reputation for producing a desirable quality of lambs in a merchantable condition and then

stand by any contract that you agree to, whether verbal or written.

8. DO cultivate a knowledge of desirable markets for any poorly fattened or feeder lambs which your operation may produce. This is desirable because you can generally arrive at a better price for the top end or the fatter lambs if they are unaccompanied by medium or feeder lambs.

It is common practice in country trading in many localities that lambs be penned overnight without feed and water, or weighed full in the morning and then given a percentage shrink for the purpose of determining the sale weight. This percentage is commonly three or four percent. The important points for growers to consider are:

- A. That an overnight stand is approximately the same as a three or four percent shrink on morning weights (7 to 8 a.m.).
- B. That a four percent shrink on lambs at 25 cents a pound amounts to one

(Continued on page 26)



# Australian Breeds of Sheep

By HADLEIGH MARSH

*This is the second of three articles by Dr. Marsh on breeds of sheep in Australia. The information on which his discussion is based was obtained principally from personal observation on a number of sheep stations in Australia and from talks with breeders and with government sheep and wool experts. Dr. J. F. Wilson of the University of California, Dr. J. C. Terrill of the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station (Dubois, Idaho), and Mr. G. Curtis Hughes of the Montana Wool Laboratory were consulted in connection with the attempts to translate to the American terms the designations of the grades of wool produced by the different types of Australian Merino sheep.*

## Medium-Wool Merinos

THE bulk of the Australian wool is of the medium Merino type, with spinning counts of 64's to 66's, and staple length of

of 55 to 60 percent. While these sheep are relatively plain, they usually show a fair amount of neck development, and some show breech-folds.

Medium-wool Merinos were seen on



Figure 1. Medium-wool ewes, recently sheared, on plains of southern Queensland—plain-bodied, with only moderate neck-folds and little evidence of breech-folds. (Weight, 100 lbs.)

3½ inches. The Australian medium wools would be graded in the United States as half blood and fine. The type of sheep producing this wool was developed when the drier western areas of New South Wales went into sheep production. The bigger and plainer (smoother) Merinos were selected, and some of the blood of the strong-wool South Australian sheep was introduced. The result is a type of sheep which, with its variations, is used to a large extent in the principal sheep-producing areas of Australia, particularly the western slopes and plains country of New South Wales and Queensland. This sheep is bigger, plainer, and more rugged than the fine-wool Merino. Mature ewes of this type weigh about 110 pounds after shearing, and produce fleeces averaging 10 to 11 pounds. The wool has more color than the high-country fine-wools, with a clean yield

several stations in Queensland and New South Wales. Figure 1 is a photograph of recently shorn 2-year-old ewes produced at Noondoo, on the plains of Queensland. These young ewes weighed 100 pounds after shearing. They are plain-bodied, with only moderate neck-folds, and little evidence of breech-folds. Mature ewes in this flock weighed about 110 pounds after shearing.

Figure 2 shows a group of medium-wool stud ewes on a station in New South Wales, showing more "development" in the neck region, and some breech-folds.

In Figure 3 is shown a medium-wool ram on a station in the plains area of New South Wales. This is a rugged appearing ram, relatively plain, although breech-folds were noticeable in many of the rams in this flock.

Figure 4 shows another medium-wool ram from the same flock as the ewes in Figure 2.

## Strong-Wool Merinos

In the early days of sheep-breeding in



Figure 2. Medium-wool ewes at station in New South Wales, showing more "development" in the neck region and some breech-folds.

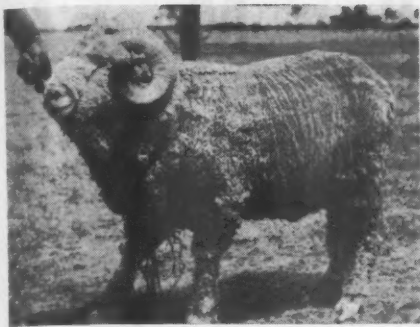


Figure 3. Medium-wool ram, rugged appearing and relatively plain. Picture taken at station in New South Wales.



Figure 4. Medium-wool ram from the same flock as the ewes in Figure 2.

Australia a big plain sheep with a relatively coarse wool of long staple. This type is still bred in South Australia, and used on the very dry plains of South Australia and southwestern New South Wales. These sheep produce strong wool of spinning counts of 58's and 60's, and having a staple length of 3½ to 4 inches. The Australian strong wools would be graded in this country as half blood and three-eighths blood. The individual fleece weights average 11 to 12 pounds, with clean yields of about 50 percent.

### More Pasture Land for Australian Sheep

THE conversion of "desert" area into pasturage that will be supporting at least two sheep per acre and some 250 farms within ten years, is the goal of a large-scale Australian venture at developing submarginal land. The undertaking will take place in part of the region known as the "Ninety-Mile Desert" in the southeastern section of the continent.

Impetus was given to the project by discoveries of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and the financial backing of the Australian Mutual Provident Society.

Rainfall in the unproductive area has always been reasonably satisfactory, but a light and sandy soil yields only low, stunted mallee; stringybark, broom and heath. C.S.I.R.O. investigations revealed that subterranean clover and grasses could be successfully established when zinc and copper were used in conjunction with dressings of superphosphate. It is proposed also to include in the seed mixture the South African perennial veldt grass, which is particularly useful on the sandy rises.

Tests indicate that by treating the soil in this manner it could be made to carry from one and a half to two sheep per acre within five years of seeding, and that this carrying capacity could subsequently be increased still more.

In pursuance of its policy of expending large sums of money in the development of rural lands, the Society decided on the present undertaking after its officers, in conjunction with scientific advisers and experienced pastoralists, had reported favorably on the "desert" area.

However, the transformation is not expected to be easily accomplished. Even with the most efficient plant obtainable, considerable financing and expert management, it is estimated that the first batch of twenty to twenty-five farms will not be ready for settlement for five years.

## California's Wool Show

A Corriedale ram fleece received highest honors and the \$1500 Palace Hotel trophy award at the California Wool Show this year (Sacramento, May 8 to 9, 1950). Entered by C. A. Huestis of Newcastle, California, the fleece weighed 15½ pounds, had a shrink of about 40 percent, a five-inch staple, excellent lock and good color, the California Wool Grower reports.

This was the first wool show put on by the California Association since the war. Interest in it was augmented by entries from Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, New Mexico, and the fact that the All-American Corriedale Show and Sale was a major part of the California Sale this year. Mr. Byran S. Trolve, member of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Corriedale Society, judged the special Corriedale wool show.

A. T. Spencer, former president of the California Wool Growers Association and prominent Romeldale breeder of Winters, California, won the special award for the most valuable fleece from the manufacturers' viewpoint.

Winners of first places by breeds were:

### E. F. Rinehart Recognized

EDWARD Franklin Rinehart, extension animal husbandman of the University of Idaho, has been given a superior service award by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and every livestockman in the intermountain area, and particularly those in Idaho where he has worked so closely with them the past 18 years, will agree that no one more rightfully deserves such recognition.

The award was made "For revolutionizing the pattern of livestock development to meet the needs of the people and conditions of the West; and he was influential in helping cowmen and sheepmen look upon each other as a neighbor."

"Mr. Rinehart," the USDA further states, "has been in extension work for 32 years, but his experience with Idaho livestock dates back 38 years ago, when he took a job of livestock development on a new irrigation project with the Bureau of Reclamation. By continual suggestion and by pointing to the success of others, a livestock program was set up with a few breeds that properly fit conditions. Mr. Rinehart, one of the founders of the Idaho Cattlemen's Association, took the lead in bringing unity among stockmen in the early days of conflict between sheepmen and cattlemen."

Delaine or New Zealand Merino: Mailliard Ranch, Yorkville, California.

Rambouillet: Glenn Maddux, Bakersfield, California. Ewe: Crane Ranch, Santa Rosa, California.

Columbia: Harry Meuleman, Rupert, Idaho. Romeldale: George C. Wood, Danville, California.

First place winners in market classes were:

Half-blood and fine combing, 58's, 80's—Mailliard Ranch; three-eighths-blood combing, 56's, Harry Meuleman, Rupert, Idaho; quarter-blood combing, 48's, 50's, Jerry King, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Mailliard Ranch won first place for the best five fleeces from any one breeder while A. T. Spencer took second place in this class. These two contestants also won first and second place respectively for the best exhibits of fleeces in the following breeds of sheep: Delaine or New Zealand Merino, Rambouillet, Corriedale and Romeldale.

# What Does Carcass Grading Mean?

By HOWARD VAUGHN

*This interpretation of the significance of Federal meat grading to the consumer is a part of an address made by President Howard Vaughn of the National Wool Growers Association at a meeting of the San Francisco Rotary Club on March 28, 1950. Guests at the luncheon included Board of Directors of the American Meat Institute.*

CONSUMERS should know more about the total results of Federal meat grading. That process is much more complicated than you realize. I refer to the grading of carcasses which is separate entirely from sanitary inspection. We all assume that grades designated as Choice, Good, Commercial and Utility should list carcasses of meat in the order of their desirability for human consumption. Actually, there are several important exceptions to that assumption.

Graders list three main items on which they judge meat: age, conformation and condition. The younger the animal, the closer to an approved conformation and the higher its condition, the better the grade it receives. Practically, the item of conformation is the only one of the three which cannot be challenged by people who want to eat an abundant and uniform supply of meat. Unquestionably there is a type of carcass which is high in its percentage of desirable cuts and lean meats. Such conformation is of most value to consumers.

Regarding age, no one denies that a young animal is generally more tender than an old one, but in times of shortage you would get more meat if you would feed the animals to a greater age. Besides, there are items of care and feeding which affect tenderness of meat, as well as mere age.

Then, the item of condition is also subject to challenge. Condition to a meat grader denotes nothing more or less than the fat the carcass has on it, and no carcass can be graded Choice unless it carries a high percentage of pure fat, both inside and outside the carcass. No one denies that a certain amount of fat does enhance the palatability of meat, but there is no evidence that the amount of fat required to make a carcass Choice instead of Good under Federal grading adds anything at all to the value of the meat in our diet. And there is plenty of evidence that the added fat does make meat more costly to consumers because it costs more to produce it and because consumers often waste most of the excess fat. For hundreds of

years careful students of animal breeding have been developing meat animals to yield the highest percentage of the red meat which you like best and which from a nutritional standpoint is best for you, and now comes a grading system which in effect tells you that the top requirement in meat is that final layer of fat which most of you cut off and throw away.

But there is a worse feature in the current grading setup. It operates indirectly and costs you money. It is involved in the fact that the stamp placed on the carcass in the slaughter house determines within close limits the sale price of the meat. If the grader puts a too large percentage of carcasses into Choice grade, he makes more money for the packer and you pay more for the meat. Actually, this seldom happens because the fundamental human reaction of all graders is to police the industry. If the grader puts a small percentage in Choice with more in the Good grade, you pay less and the packer makes less. By such action the live market of that packer is immediately depressed because he can-

not take chances on what the grader may do, and the grower eventually suffers, and the tendency is to curtail production. Obviously curtailed production is not what consumers desire.

Without accusing anyone involved in the grading of anything but proper motives, the fact still remains that as currently practiced, Government grading does affect sale prices of livestock and incomes of packers, and therefore constitutes an uncertain and a disturbing factor in livestock trading. It actually constitutes a disguised price control over the animals I sell and the meat you buy. This operation is typical of procedures which produce results other than intended or desired, for no one, not even the Government bureau that controls their work, ever expected that meat graders should become price czars for the industry. Of course, Federal grading is not now compulsory. But wherever it is used we are told that consumers demand it. That is why consumers should understand how it is done and its actual and entire effect on prices and supply.

## Sheep On Upsurge

THE front page of the May 6, 1950, issue of the California Farmer, one of the largest farm publications of this type in the U.S.A., gives the sheep industry a boost. Illustrated by a beautiful picture of sheep grazing in Humboldt County, the comment is:

"The U. S. Government policy of holding down wool prices during the war resulted in a sharp shrinkage of sheep numbers, now off about 45 percent in California and Nevada, and approximately 44 percent for the Nation as a whole.

"But the old law of supply and demand shoulders aside the Government planners. The world is short of fine wool; the price of spring lambs is strong; and there is a lively demand for breeding ewes.

"Thus we are returning to a sounder basis, and sheep are coming back to some

of the ranges where they fit the economic situation best of all.

"In 1949 the gross income of wool and lambs in California was estimated at \$32 millions. It could be higher than this for 1950.

"The general interest in sheep has also stimulated farm flocks on small and large fenced ranches. In the foothills fruit region of California some of the growers, tired of gambling on returns on fresh fruit shipped east, are diversifying with a few sheep.

"There are a great many farms where a flock of sheep is useful for eating weeds, cleaning up fence rows, gleaning fields and furnishing a two-way cash crop—both wool and lambs.

"Balanced agriculture, the world around, has leaned on sheep for a great many centuries."



# Pictures Highlight a Few of the Many Activities of the National Live Stock and Meat Board in Furthering the Interest of Meat.



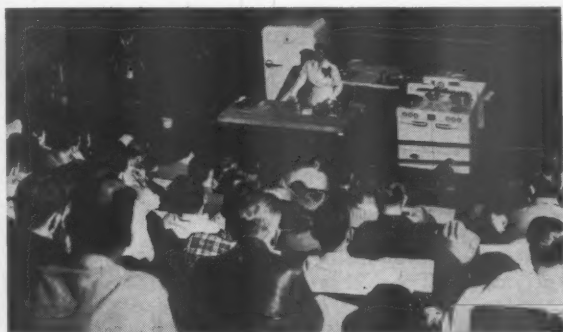
This, ladies, is how to prepare a leg of lamb. One of the many meat recipes demonstrated on the Board's major cooking schools which reach between 300,000 and 500,000 women each year. Schools have been given in 49 representative cities in the last year.



Retail meat dealers crowd around the meat specialist to ask questions at the close of one of the Board's merchandising programs attended by 375 meat men. Programs such as this to assist dealers in increasing meat sales have been conducted in 86 cities of 33 states during the past year.



Television is providing an exceptionally fine new outlet for the Board's visual education on meat. The above picture is typical of how staff members have appeared in the televising of 35 programs during the year from stations across the country. In addition, the Board's motion pictures on meat have been shown 130 times by 59 stations.



Board's home economists present the meat story in college classrooms across the country, not only for foods but for animal husbandry and meat students, as shown in the above picture. Fifty-eight Board programs have been conducted in 49 colleges during the past year.



The Board's eye-appealing meat exhibits at livestock expositions and fairs are effective means of bringing meat facts to large numbers of persons. More than 2½ million persons visited these exhibits during the past year.



also spreads the Board's meat message to millions of listeners from coast to coast; 265 such broadcasts, covering all angles of the meat subject, have been made on 191 stations during the past year.



Business and professional men—and their wives, too—turn out en masse to learn about the selection and carving of meat from the Board's meat specialists. The occasions are the meetings of Rotary, Kiwanis and other service clubs in all sections of the country.



Elementary schools in every state look to the Board's charts and readers as standard teaching material for lessons on meat and nutrition. Here a teacher is discussing one of the charts, with others on the wall.

# Lamb Market Report

WITH spring lambs just commencing to run and the old crop fast fading out of the picture, the May lamb market is difficult to report. Supplies were light at all points with the exception of Fort Worth, Texas.

Fluctuation was also the order of the day, prices shifting 50 cents to \$2.00 up and down, depending on numbers and quality. The New York meat trade was dull during the first three weeks, but at the opening of the fourth, trade was reported as "fairly active and prices firm."

The top on the spring lambs offered was around \$29 and \$30 the first half of the month. At Denver the third week, \$30.50 was paid. Choice 82-87 pound spring lambs closed that week in Denver at \$30 to \$30.25. Medium to choice lambs weighing 74 pounds brought \$29. By the middle of the fourth week, the top at Denver was \$28.50.

(Continued on page 24)

## Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last

	1950	1949
Total U. S. Inspected		
Slaughter, First Four Months.....	3,712,580	3,904,917
Week Ended	May 20	May 21
Slaughter at 32 centers .....	176,859	146,319
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Spring):		
Good and Choice .....	\$.....*	\$31.25
Medium and Good .....	.....	\$28.25
Chicago Average Lamb Prices (Wooled):		
Good and Choice .....	\$27.02	\$29.60
Medium and Good .....	25.22	26.55
New York Av. Western Dressed Lamb Prices		
Choice, 40-45 pounds .....	\$.....*	\$61.00
Good, 40-45 pounds .....	.....**	58.70

## Federally Inspected Slaughter—April

Cattle .....	959,089	995,939
Calves .....	498,936	562,014
Hogs .....	4,316,281	3,893,904
Sheep and Lambs .....	833,540	675,643

\*None quoted on Chicago market for this week.

\*\*New York quotation on Good, 45-50 pounds, \$53.00.

## Feeder Lamb

### DISTRIBUTORS



## PETERSEN SHEEP CO.

SPENCER

DES MOINES

DENVER

BILLINGS

## Sell Sheep Successfully

by shipping to CLAY—a firm which has consistently been in the front rank of the livestock commission business since we opened our doors in September 1886.

Our resources of well-trained salesmen and assistants, our proficient office workers, our nationwide sources of obtaining information affecting price changes are a unity maintained at the highest pinnacle of efficiency to render SERVICE second to none.

Consign to a firm that can give your shipment the benefit of broadest competition.

Compare our many years of experience and stability in the livestock industry with any other firm.

**YOU ARE BOUND TO SEE  
YOU'RE SURE TO AGREE**

that your interests will be served to best possible advantage by

## JOHN CLAY & COMPANY

Live Stock Commission Service

Houses at Stock Yards  
Chicago, Ill. Kansas City, Mo. Omaha, Nebr. Denver, Colo.  
East St. Louis, Ill. St. Joseph, Mo. Sioux City, Iowa Fort Worth, Tex.  
San Antonio, Tex. Ogden, Utah Financial Office, Rookery Bldg., Chicago

SAFEGWAY answers  
the question:

# How much of the Food Dollar goes for SELLING?



*When discussing the costs of food distribution, people sometimes assume that the whole of such costs, or a major part of them, are run up by retailing.*

*Charts which show the farmer's share of the food dollar spent by customers as 50¢—and label the other 50¢ as "distribution"—do not make it plain that retailing is just one of many costs paid out of the food dollar.*

*This 50¢ total cost called distribution also includes charges for storage and freight, for grading, cleaning, processing, packing and wholesaling.*

*Further, this 50¢ is an average for all farm crops. Actually the farmer's share varies widely between different crops, depending on the amount of processing and other services required. But on the basis of this "average" food dollar, let's look at Safeway costs...*

**Q** What part of the food dollar is spent by Safeway to do the retailer job?

**A** Less than 14¢. Yes, to cover all our costs from the time we put farmers' products in our stores until we sell them to customers, it takes less than 14¢ out of every dollar spent in our stores. This 14¢ pays our day-to-day retail costs—such costs as wages, rents, taxes, displaying food attractively, and inviting the public with advertising to come and buy. This 14¢ also includes a profit for Safeway.

**Q** How much profit does Safeway earn?

**A** Safeway's profit in 1949 was  $1\frac{1}{3}\%$  per dollar of food sales at our stores. All our costs of doing a retail business, plus a profit, total less than 14¢.

**Q** Is this 14¢ out of each dollar of Safeway sales smaller than the average costs for these same functions?

**A** Yes, 14¢ is a considerably smaller than average retailing cost, because Safeway

handles and sells more food per store and per employee. Safeway's system is one of low cost distribution of food. The efficiency of this system allows Safeway to return to farmers both *more total dollars* and a *larger share of each food dollar*.



**Q** Is this 14¢ per dollar of sales more—or less—than Safeway has operated for in the past?

**A** *Less.* The part of the food dollar for which Safeway performs its services is lower now than it was 10 years ago. Of course, the dollar volume of our sales is larger now, due in part to increased food

prices. But our labor and other costs have climbed even more sharply, requiring us to seek constantly new ways to operate more efficiently. With total population and per capita food consumption both larger than in 1940... we can do our job today for a *smaller share of more dollars from more customers*.

**The Safeway idea** of selling more food per store and per employee isn't ours alone. We are in free competition with many stores working toward the same end.

It seems to us that is good for everybody—for farmer, customer and store man alike. We invite you to test our ideas of how a store should be run by doing your food shopping at Safeway, where almost one-fifth of all customers are farm families.



**SAFEGWAY  
STORES**



### WM. R. SMITH & SON — at OMAHA

A name that has enjoyed an enviable reputation in the sheep business for 40 years—is now associated with **RALSTON LIVE STOCK COMMISSION CO.**, a firm well known for their ability and experience in handling and selling live stock on the Omaha market.

**CHARLEY COYLE** (most of you know him well) heads the Sheep Department and your shipments will continue to receive the personal attention and service that he has given sheep men for years and years.

Write or wire for market information at any time—address either:

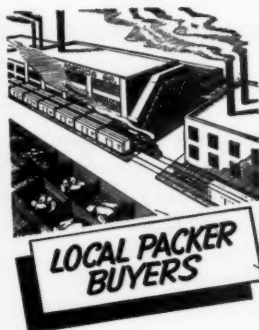
**CHAS. E. COYLE or RALSTON LIVE STOCK COMMISSION CO.**

**STOCK YARDS STATION — OMAHA**

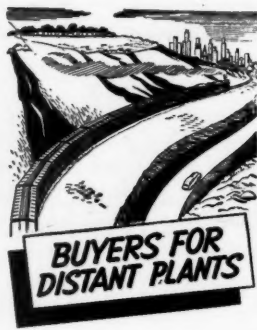
*When You Sell Your Livestock at the*

## SIoux CITY STOCK YARDS

*You Have the Benefit of Competition  
From All Classes of Buyers!*



1,992,378 head of livestock was purchased at the Sioux City Stock Yards for slaughter in the 7 packing plants located in Sioux City in 1949!



1,116,854 head of livestock was purchased by Packer and Order Buyers for shipment to packing plants located in 202 cities in 36 states in 1949!



781,946 head of stocker and feeder livestock was purchased at the Sioux City Stock Yards by livestock feeders in 22 states in 1949!

Such Widespread Demand Assures YOU of the  
Greatest Net Return When You Sell at the

## SIoux CITY STOCK YARDS

### Lamb Market Report

*(Continued from page 22)*

The first run of Idaho spring ranch lambs reached Ogden the second week to sell at \$28.25, with freight benefit. There were three double decks in the lot and the lambs weighed 92 pounds. This price was also given for a load of choice Idaho's at the opening of the fourth week, with freight benefit.

The old crop woolled lambs, good and choice, moved in a price range of \$24.75 to \$28.25. Old crop shorn lambs fluctuated between \$24.50 and \$27.50. Prices on shorn feeder lambs ranged between \$17 to as much as \$23, the latter figure applying on lots of mixed feeders and fats.

Prices on slaughter ewes also moved up and down during the first three weeks of the month. Good and choice kinds, woolled, went as high as \$14.25.

Up to May 25, approximately 73,000 California lambs had passed through the Ogden Gateway, mostly on previous contracts.

### Contracting

Contracting in the West seems to have died down. In Idaho some late lambs have been contracted for September delivery up to \$22.50. In Montana, 23 cents was the contract figure on 1,000 mixed blackfaced lambs for fall delivery, and 22½ cents was given for 1500 blackfaced wether lambs, also for fall delivery. A Wyoming report says that 21 cents was being offered there but not taken.

you want to sell ewes or lambs  
call or write mike hayes

You Want to Buy Ewes or Lambs  
Write or Call Mike Hayes

YOU ARE SHIPPING EWES OR  
LAMBS, BILL THEM TO

## MIKE HAYES

THE SHEEP SALESMAN

UNION STOCK YARDS

Denver 16, Colorado

# MM

## ENGINEERS HELP LOWER PRODUCTION COSTS



### WITH *factory built* LP GAS TRACTORS\*



MM LP gas tractors, equipped with Uni-Matic Power, offer finger-tip control of all MM Quick On—Quick-Off field tools with extra safety features.

MM LP gas tractors cut plowing costs to a minimum by consuming less fuel, using less oil and providing more power to do the job quicker and easier.



MM LP gas tractors are like all MM tractors in that they are visionlined for smooth operation. You do not need to stretch or strain to see what you are doing. The tractor's balanced weight and power, quick-acting brakes, easy-to-reach controls, and twin-disc, hand-operated, over center clutch give you ease of operation with greater safety at all times. *In addition*, these LP gas tractors offer *all the advantages of LP gas*—butane or propane or a mixture of both.

**MORE POWER** is obtained by the use of LP gas. Owners report that the horsepower of the already powerful MM model U is stepped up about 10%. On MM model U tractors the high antiknock rating of this 100 octane fuel permits a high compression ratio of 6.8 to 1 instead of 5.4 to 1. MM *factory-built* LP gas tractors are equipped with *high* compression and *cold* manifolds. Without their use, power would be lower and fuel consumption higher.

**GREATER ECONOMY** is obtained with LP gas because it is a dry gas that burns clean and prevents carbon deposit and crankcase dilution. Oil lasts several times as long owing to less contamination. LP gas also eliminates the washing of oil from cylinder walls. MM LP gas tractors run cooler. The time between tractor overhauls is greatly prolonged.

**MM LP GAS TRACTORS ARE FACTORY EQUIPPED** with special cylinder head, special carburetor, special tank built to resist pressure, and safety pop-off valves which meet requirements of all states.

**MM LP GAS TRACTORS** are available in Universal and Standard models. MM dealers have the complete facts on LP gas tractors and other quality-built MM Modern Machines, Visionlined Tractors, and Power Units . . . farm machinery recognized for quality and dependability wherever man tills the soil in the modern manner.

**QUALITY CONTROL  
IN MM FACTORIES  
ASSURES  
DEPENDABLE  
PERFORMANCE  
IN THE FIELD**

\*MM FACTORY BUILT  
SINCE APRIL 8, 1941



MM Factory Built  
Model G Tractors  
Available After  
July 10, 1950

# MINNEAPOLIS-MOLINE

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

## Costly Waste in Marketing Livestock

**T**HE waste of meat on deads and cripples at all public markets and interior plants during 1949 was approximately 22 million pounds and the loss \$6,800,000. The waste from bruising was 31,800,000 pounds and the loss \$25,000,000, a total of nearly \$32,000,000. The fact that these losses are paid indirectly in large part by producers makes it apparent that all should make every effort to lessen them by adopting the precautionary measures listed below:

1. Dehorn cattle, preferably when young.

2. Remove projecting nails, splinters and broken boards in feed racks and fences.
3. Keep out of feed lots old machinery, trash, and any obstacles that may bruise.
4. Do not feed grain heavily just prior to loading.
5. Use good loading chutes, not too steep.
6. Bed with sand, free from stones, to prevent slipping.
7. Cover sand with straw in cold weather, but no straw for hogs in hot weather.
8. Wet sand bedding in summer before loading hogs, and while enroute.

Drench when necessary.

9. Partition packing sows from light weight butchers.
10. Provide covers for trucks to protect from sun in summer and cold in winter.
11. Always partition mixed loads to separate classes, and calves from cattle.
12. Have upper deck of truck high enough to prevent back bruises on calves below.
13. Remove protruding nails, bolts or any sharp objects in truck or car.
14. Load slowly to prevent crowding against sharp corners, and to avoid excitement. Do not overload.
15. Use canvas slappers instead of clubs or canes.
16. Tie all bulls in truck or car, and partition boards, stags and cripples.
17. Bull board should be in position and secured before car door is closed on cattle loaded.
18. Drive carefully. Slow down on sharp turns and avoid sudden stops.
19. Inspect load enroute to prevent trampling of downer cattle.
20. Back truck slowly and squarely against unloading dock.
21. Unload slowly. Don't drop animals from upper to lower deck; use cleated inclines.
22. Never lift sheep by the wool.

The above information is contained in the 1949 report of the National Livestock Loss Prevention Board which carries the title "The Costly Waste in Marketing Livestock."

## STOP AT MORRIS FEED YARDS

Tired and travel weary live stock do not sell to best advantage.  
CONDITION YOUR LIVE STOCK BY USING OUR FACILITIES FOR

### Feed and Rest

Best of feed and water with expert attendants night and day. Ample facilities for long or short feed.

Live stock for Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, Chicago, or any destination beyond Kansas City may be billed to stop at Morris for feed and make the best of connections on to destination.

### CAPACITY:

50,000 Sheep With Up to Date      160 cars good cattle pens, good  
Shearing and Dipping Facilities.      grain bunks and hay racks.

Write or wire for complete information

### MORRIS FEED YARDS

Located on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad  
10 Miles West of Kansas City

Operated by SETH N. PATTERSON and ARTHUR HILL

Office: 924 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

## PERMANENT ALUMINUM RANCH EQUIPMENT

1. Sheep and goat pen panel spans 8-10-12 and 14 ft. Light, long-lasting, NO SHARP EDGES.
2. Famous Guaranteed Life-Time Gates for all purposes.
3. Light-weight, strong, long lasting Pick-Up Sideboards.

PERMANENT EQUIPMENT IS CHEAPER IN THE LONG RUN!

PAN-L PEN CO.

P. O. BOX 1310

San Angelo, Texas

A. D. Rust

## SHEEPMEN'S BOOKS

Bennett's The Complete Rancher .....	\$2.75
Ed Finn's Simplified Income Tax Information and Farm Account Book.....	1.00
Hultz & Hill's Range Sheep and Wool .....	4.00
Kammlade's Sheep Science .....	5.00
Keller's Sheep Dose, Their Maintenance and Training .....	4.50
Klemme's An American Grazer Goes Abroad .....	2.50
Morrison's Feeds and Feeding .....	7.00
Sampson's Range and Pasture Management .....	4.75
Stoddart & Smith's Range Management .....	5.50
Wentworth & Towne's Shepherd's Empire .....	3.50
Wentworth's America's Sheep Trails .....	7.00

And For The Children

Perdew's Tenderfoot at Bar X ..... 3.00

For Sale By

### NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

414 Pacific National Life Building

Salt Lake City 1, Utah

## Selling Lambs

(Continued from page 17)

cent per pound. It is therefore important in the trading that both parties to the deal understand the basis on which the trade is being concluded.

- C. Growers who are new in the sheep business or who have never given serious thought to the possible variations of selling weights in a lamb deal should be cautioned against the tricks of some buyers. It should always be borne in mind that the buyer's job is to buy the live lambs in such a manner that the dressed meat will be cheapest for his company. For instance if a buyer wanted to take as much advantage as possible of a grower he would first set up a low price, claiming "the lambs are



not good enough"; then he would require an overnight stand—saying he was "buying lambs and not grass or water"; then he might require a four percent shrink "because it is customary"; and after all that he might even request special sorting (two or even three times) before weighing, for no actual reason at all except to get more shrink and make the lambs cost him less. The other side of the picture is that no grower, unless he is deliberately trying to "out-fox" the buyer will attempt both the maximum price and the maximum fill in the same deal. We do not mean to infer that any large percentage of buyers operate as described above, but we know that any sheepman who operates very long will sooner or later encounter such tactics. Any deal involving the weighing of sheep should first settle the amount of shrink, if any, and after that the price should attempt to reflect the value of the dressed meat, plus the pelt, on the basis of the shrink agreed upon.

## Cooking School

WE joined the crowd at one of the four-morning sessions of the Food Pageant Cooking School presented by the Salt Lake Tribune and Telegram in Salt Lake City, May 2 to 5, 1950, and found our enthusiasm just as high as ever over these cooperative-type demonstrations of the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

Misses Anna Bines and Dorothy Holland of the Board's Homemaker's Service Department put on an excellent show, as is always the case with General Manager Pollock's superbly trained staff. That this opinion was general was shown in the close interest and attention of the large audiences throughout the school—also by the fact that there has been so many return engagements of this newspaper-Meat Board sponsored project in Salt Lake City.

Beef, lamb and pork cuts were cooked . . . cakes and pies baked and certainly the most jaded appetites would have been stimulated when the results of the school were paraded at the end of the session and given as prizes to those holding the winning numbers. And everyone received a recipe book to take home and try for themselves the dishes the Board's experts had prepared during the demonstration.

## You get a better price for the lambs you sell



## because they move so fast to those who buy!

Lambs you sell to Armour often are dressed, chilled, and moving in refrigerator cars toward an Armour sales branch within 24 hours. Only seven days is all it usually takes to deliver your lambs to markets where prices are best . . . as much as 1,500 or 2,000 miles away.

As soon as a refrigerator car of lamb is dispatched from an Armour packing plant, information of weights and grades is wired ahead to the sales branch. Chances are that Armour salesmen have sold your lambs even before they arrive.

Frequently Armour changes the shipment's destination *while in route*, so your lambs arrive at the strongest possible market in the best possible condition. For with lamb, as with all fresh meat, time is money. If much time is lost the meat loses "bloom" and value.

This remarkable teamwork of Armour packing plants, Armour sales branches, and retail dealers helps prevent pile-up or waste—helps you get a better price for the lambs you sell because they move so fast to those who buy.

**P.S.** If you're buying meat for your table, instead of selling it for someone else's, know how to tell a really good piece of lamb? Just look for the Armour brands—Armour Star, Banner or Crescent.

**ARMOUR**  
**AND COMPANY**  
CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

# The Wool Situation

On May 18, 1950, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A., released its report of the Wool Situation as approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 3, 1950. The summary of that report, one of the tables and the graph appearing on the cover of the release are given here.

**P**RODUCTION of shorn wool in the United States in 1950 probably will be a new record low. It is expected to be about 212 million pounds, grease basis, compared with 217 million pounds in 1949. The lower production prospect results from a drop of about 2 percent in stock sheep numbers at the beginning of the year. Pulled wool production in 1950 probably will be about 35 million pounds, also a new record low. Production of pulled wool in 1949, 36.4 million pounds, was down 22 percent from 1949. The large drop from 1948 reflected the much smaller slaughter of sheep and lambs last year. There are indications that sheepmen will maintain or increase numbers in 1950. Slaughter of sheep and lambs in 1950 probably will continue low, holding down production of pulled wool. Total wool production in 1950 probably will be about 247 million pounds, or about 108 million pounds, scoured basis. Total production in 1949 was about 111 million pounds, scoured basis, compared with 125 million pounds in 1948.

The average price received by farmers for shorn wool in 1949 was 49.3 cents per pound, compared with 48.8 cents in 1948 and 42.0 cents in 1947. The average price received in April 1950 was 50.4 cents. This compared with 49.6 cents received in March 1950 and 51.3 cents in April of last year. The average price received for shorn wool in 1950 probably will not be greatly different from that in 1949. The support level for 1950 wool production is 45.2 cents per pound, farm basis, compared with 42.3 cents in 1949. In general, 1950 purchase prices for fine wools are higher than in the 1949 program, while support prices for medium and coarser wools are lower.

Open market prices for domestic wool at Boston changed very little this year until late in April, when rather general advances occurred. Advances were reported for shorn quarter-blood and finer territory combing wool, three-eighths blood territory clothing wool, quarter-blood and finer bright fleece, half-blood and finer semi-bright fleece, and all 12-months' Texas wools. During the second half of April, open market prices for all domestic pulled wools, except C Super, advanced.

The present strength in domestic wool prices is likely to continue for some time, assuming no unexpected developments in general business activity. Shorn and pulled wool production in 1950 will be a record low for the United States; mill consumption is likely to increase slightly; the ratio of stocks to the weekly rate of mill consumption is at about the 1935-39 level; and foreign markets, from which substantially greater quantities will be imported, are rather active at current prices.

Prices of apparel wool in foreign markets, after declining 5 to 10 percent during the first week in February, remained at about

the same level until mid-March. During the last half of March, demand strengthened and prices advanced. On March 31, at the close of the March series of auctions at London, prices for most qualities were at about the same level as late in January, the post-devaluation peak. At the Australian auctions late in April, prices for Merino wools were at about the same level as in late January, while prices for crossbred wools were 5 to 10 percent higher.

For the fifth year in succession, world consumption is running ahead of production. Consumption during the 1949 season probably will be about the same as during

Approximate comparison of May, 1950 open market prices, 1950 CCC purchase prices, and 1949 CCC purchase prices, per pound, for graded, shorn wools, clean basis, at Boston

Quality		Open market prices May 5, 1950	1950 program purchase prices	1949 program purchase prices
Territory		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Fine combing (Staple)	(64s and finer)	1.62-1.66	1.35-1.40	1.30-1.32
Fine French combing	(64s and finer)	1.56-1.60	1.23-1.32	1.20-1.27
Fine clothing	(64s and finer)	1.45-1.50	1.14	1.13
½ Blood combing	(60s, 62s)	1.45-1.50	1.24-1.30	1.24-1.28
½ Blood French combing	(60s, 62s)	1.30-1.35	1.17-1.22	1.15-1.22
½ Blood clothing	(60s, 62s)	1.25-1.30	1.11-1.17	1.11-1.15
¾ Blood combing	(56s, 58s)	1.20-1.25	1.06-1.11	1.12-1.15
¾ Blood clothing	(56s, 58s)	0.90-1.00	0.96	1.02
¾ Blood combing	(48s, 50s)	1.05-1.10	0.96-1.02	1.03-1.07
Low ¾ blood	(46s)	0.90-0.95	0.90	0.96
Common and Braid	(44s and coarser)	0.85-0.90	0.85	0.91
Bright fleece				
Fine combing (Delaine)	(64s and finer)	1.65-1.70	1.41-1.44	1.31-1.34
Fine clothing	(64s and finer)	1.45	1.13	1.13
½ Blood combing	(60s, 62s)	1.45-1.50	1.24-1.26	1.24-1.26
¾ Blood combing	(56s, 58s)	1.08-1.10	1.03-1.05	1.09-1.11
¾ Blood combing	(48s, 50s)	1.02-1.05	0.98-1.00	1.02-1.04
Low ¾ blood	(46s)	0.76	0.81	0.93
Common and Braid	(44s and coarser)	0.71	0.76	0.88
Semi-Bright fleece				
Fine combing (Staple)	(64s and finer)	1.54-1.58	1.28-1.33	1.23-1.28
Fine clothing	(64s and finer)	1.40-1.45	1.13	1.13
½ Blood combing	(60s, 62s)	1.40-1.45	1.17-1.19	1.18-1.22
¾ Blood combing	(56s, 58s)	1.04-1.08	1.03-1.05	1.09-1.11
¾ Blood combing	(48s, 50s)	1.00-1.04	0.98-1.00	1.02-1.04
Low ¾ blood	(46s)	0.76	0.81	0.93

Compiled from Production and Marketing Administration Market Reports.

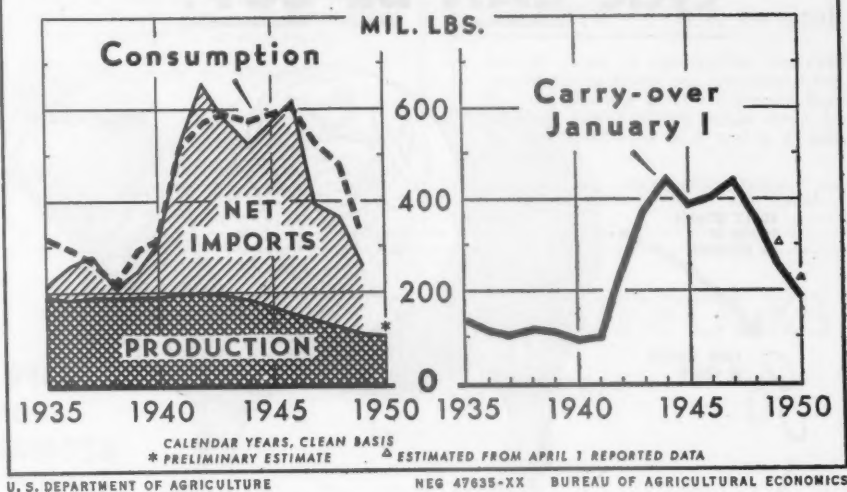
(Note: Texas wools were not included by the B.A.E. in the above table. However, the relationship between open market prices and those offered by the 1950 purchase program is at least comparable with that shown for territory wools and perhaps the spread would be a little wider.)

the previous season, and probably will exceed production by as much as 15 percent.

Consumption of 343 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool by United States worsted and woolen mills during 1949 was the lowest since 1940. The sharp decline, which began late in 1948, reached its low point in April 1949. Consumption during the first two months of 1950 was about 15 percent higher than during the same period of 1949. If consumer income remains high and consumer expenditures for wool goods relative to income do not decline much more, apparel wool consumption during 1950 may be slightly higher than in 1949 and probably will be between 350 and 375 million pounds, scoured basis.

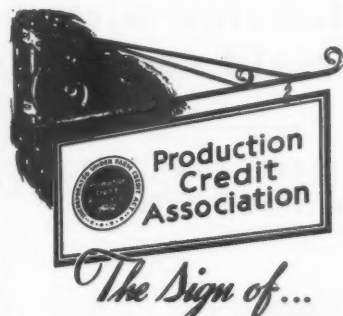
Imports of dutiable wools during the first two months of 1950 totaled 82 million pounds, actual weight basis. This was equivalent to 49 million pounds, clean basis, 75 percent greater than in the same period of 1949. Imports during 1950 probably will be substantially larger than in 1949, even if consumption is no greater. Production is expected to be a new record low, while stocks of apparel wool in the United States at the beginning of the year

## APPAREL WOOL: SUPPLY AND MILL CONSUMPTION



probably were as much as 25 percent below those at the beginning of 1949. The ratio of commercial stocks to consumption at the beginning of the year was about the

same as the prewar 1935-39 average. Commodity Credit Corporation holdings on April 1 totaled about 16 million pounds, scoured basis.



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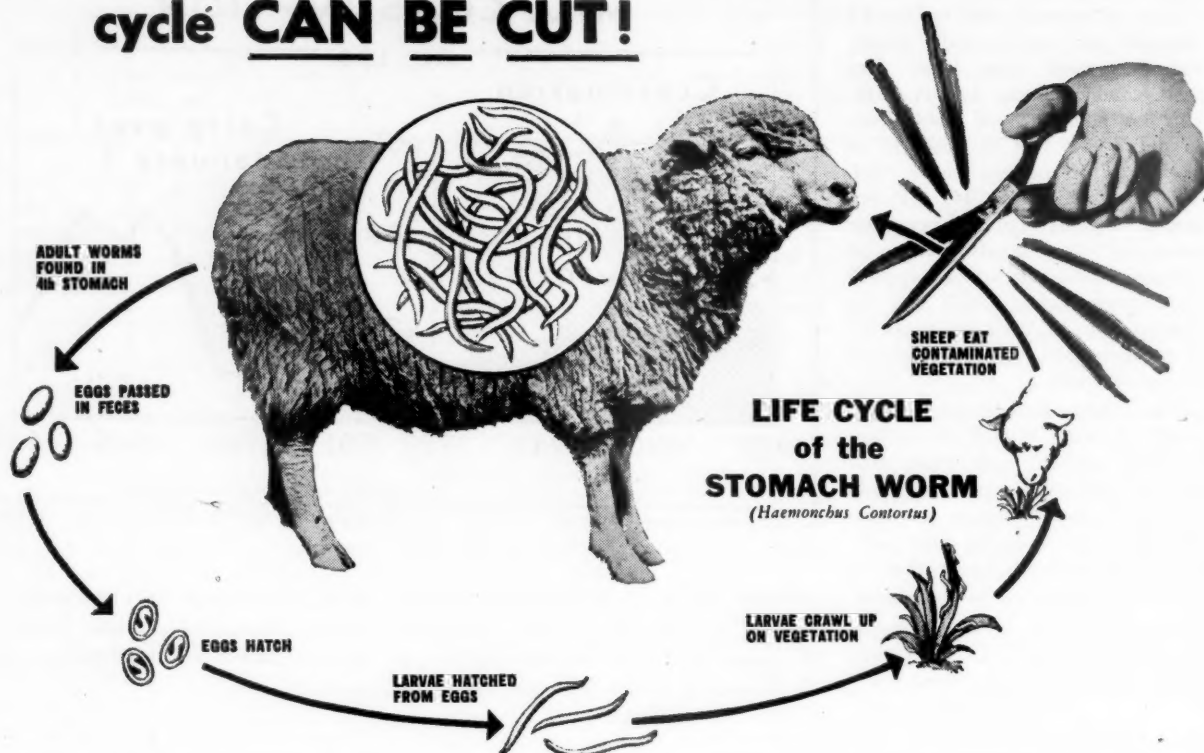
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No other method so effectively controls infestation of these blood-sucking parasites while supplying blood-building minerals to repair worm damage.

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## Wool Market Hits Peaks

**T**HE 1950 wool season, so far as the major part of the producers are concerned, was about over at the end of May and at a high level of prices. While some of the wool has gone to dealers at Boston for grading, a large volume is going direct to mills. Many mill representatives, as we indicated last month, made their own selections at western producing points.

Up to May 20th no wool had been tendered to the Commodity Credit Corporation under the 1950 purchase program. Its stockpile at that time was estimated at less than 5 million pounds, mostly scoured pulled wool.

### TEXAS

The upsurge in Texas prices cited last month reached 80% cents for 12-months' wool the second week in May. On the 12th the San Angelo Weekly Standard reported a sale at Del Rio of 56,457 pounds of ungraded 12-months' at 72% to 80% cents or an average of 74% cents.

A report is current of a sale of 250,000 pounds of skirted 12 months' wool at 85 to 90 cents a pound, also at Del Rio.

The peak reached on 8-months' wool up to May 12th was 74½ cents paid at Del Rio. It was said to be an all-time high for that type wool.

Better than average Texas 12-months' wools were said to have a clean landed Boston value of \$1.73 to \$1.75, according to the Commercial Bulletin while 8-months' were around \$1.55 to \$1.56.

### NEW MEXICO

The bulk of the wool has been sold in New Mexico at a price range of 44 to 60 cents, according to one report.

### UTAH

Utah wools hit the peak for the year thus far at the middle of May when a clip of 24,000 pounds in the eastern part of the State brought 75 cents a pound. Second high price was 70% cents a pound paid at a sealed bid sale for 12,000 fleeces. This clip is said to be about 75 percent fine and estimated to have a 43 percent clean yield. On that basis it would have a clean price of about \$1.68. Most of the Utah clip has been sold between 60 and 70 cents.

### "WANT WORK"

I am an experienced man with sheep; want to work for small outfit — with view to running 200 to 500 head in the outfit or to buy an interest in it.

All kinds of references.

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## HAMPSHIRE

## SUFFOLKS

### BROADMEAD FARMS

Amity, Oregon

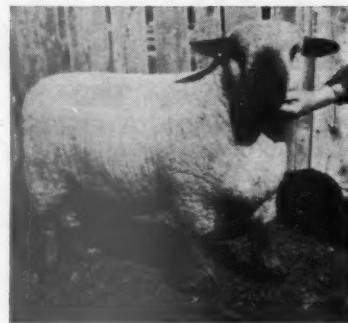
*Breeding Sheep for Sale at All Times*

### MATTHEWS BROS. 1950 HAMPSHIRE

Our consignment to this year's National Ram Sale will be about the same in number and high quality as in previous years. We'll be glad to meet other consignors as well as buyers at the sale.

Ranch Address: Ovid, Idaho

A 1949 ram lamb that will be in our 1950 consignment. ➡



## PANAMAS

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## SUFFOLKS

Our flocks have long been the foremost source of Suffolks in America, and the largest. Laidlaw Suffolk flock is probably the only one bred and raised under strictly range conditions . . . and will stand up under range conditions.

**JAMES LAIDLAW & SONS, Inc.**

MULDOON, IDAHO

## IDAHO

The 1950 clip was pretty well cleaned up by May 20th. Ninety percent had been sold at that time and almost all the rest consigned. The few remaining clips were expected to be sold. Early in the month the Idaho Bulletin reported a number of sales of western Idaho wools from 49 to 50 cents and several in the East at 52 to 55 cents. A number of the eastern clips were reported as taken or consigned with a guarantee of 48 cents.

## MONTANA

Most of the clip in western Montana had been contracted or sold by May 28th. In the eastern part of the State the wools were just commencing to move. Approximately 25,000 fleeces were reported as having been contracted in Miles City (the eastern part of the State) at prices ranging from 58 to 65 cents. The Stillwater pool at Columbus, sold during the

month at 68% cents. This pool of about 31,000 fleeces is one of the best pools in the State. A price of 70% cents was also reported as paid for a Harlowton clip during the month.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Much of the clip is said to be contracted or sold in the western part of the State at between 55 to 70 cents, depending on the individual clip involved.

## WYOMING

Although a little bit later in getting started, the wool movement in Wyoming was said to be going at a good clip toward the end of the month. One report received on May 22nd said that prices varied from 55 to 60 cents at both Douglas and Gillette. The Wyoming Wool Grower on May 11th reported a number of Wyoming clips had been sold from 51 to 54 cents.

## BOSTON

"Practically all wools in the territory States," says the USDA's weekly review of the Boston wool market on May 19th, "have been sold and only scattered odd lots remain held in strong hands. A good volume of graded fine staple territory wool was sold from \$1.67 to \$1.78, depending on shrinkage, while graded half-blood territory sold in various good-sized lots from \$1.55 to \$1.58, clean basis. Graded territory three-eighths was sold at clean prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$1.35, depending on shrinkage. Original bag, bulk fine and half-blood sold around \$1.65, clean basis, while bulk three-eighths territory in original bags brought up to \$1.39, clean basis."


For the situation in general we refer you to the report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in this issue.

## Additional Wool Schedules

**Selling Prices for Shorn Wool  
Buying and Selling Prices  
for Pulled Wool**

THE prices at which wools that go into the CCC purchase program this year will be sold were announced on May 12th. "In general," says the Government release, "shorn wool selling prices for the higher grades are in line with recent market prices for these grades and prices for the lower grades run about five cents per pound, clean basis, above the purchase prices. These selling prices were established at the higher of either recent market prices or

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**OUTSTANDING**  
**WESTERN EVENT**  
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Top California Ram Sale  
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Highest Selling Ewe—a Corriedale  
Highest Stud Ram Average—  
Corriedale Rams  
Grand Champion Fleece of the  
Show, Winner of \$1500 Trophy—  
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**JULY 12th, 1950**  
**EXHIBITION GROUNDS**  
**CALGARY — ALBERTA — CANADA**  
In conjunction with the famous  
**CALGARY**  
**EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE**  
**July 10th to 15th, 1950**  
**Suffolk-Hampshire and Southdown**  
**Stud Rams and a Few Selected**  
**Ewes of Each Breed**  
**A Total of Approximately 60 Head**  
Western Canadian sheep are noted for their  
substance and quality. This will be a selection  
of their finest, contributed by leading  
breeders throughout the West.  
**AUCTION SALE COMMENCES AT 8:30 P.M.**  
For catalogue, write,  
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**SUFFOLK LAMBS GROW RAPIDLY—HAVE MORE WEIGHT**  
**AT MARKET TIME**  
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the purchase price plus Commodity Credit Corporation handling costs."

Up to the present, no wool has been offered to the CCC under the 1950 purchase program.

Pulled wool purchase and selling prices were also covered in the May 12th release. The purchase prices for pulled wool were set at levels comparable to purchase prices for corresponding grades of shorn wools. The highest grades are increased above last year's prices, and the medium and lower grades are, on the whole, lower, as in the case of shorn wool. The prices allow a margin for the sorting done in producing pulled wool. Selling prices for pulled wool are also based largely on those established for corresponding grades of shorn wool. They are at least 5 cents a pound, clean basis, above the purchase prices announced, and the spread on the higher grades is considerably greater because "the open market prices of these grades are above purchase prices."

### Pacific's Sale at Portland

**R. A. W**ARD, general manager of the Pacific Wool Growers, reports the sale Pacific held at Portland on May 23rd as follows:

"The Pacific Wool Growers put up approximately 857,000 pounds of wool. However, only 500,000 pounds of this was wool grading quarter blood and above. The balance was Valley braid and Valley low quarter blood, specialty wools for which there is a limited outlet.

"Of the 500,000 pounds of the higher grade wools, 435,000 pounds was sold, and negotiations on other sales at private treaty are now in progress (May 26th).

"The clean prices quoted below are landed Boston:

"Fine wools, at the Pacific's sale, brought from \$1.65 to \$1.76 for French and staple; around \$1.65 to \$1.72 for good French; \$1.55 to \$1.60 for shorter types.

"The highest grease price paid was 73% cents, Portland, for a choice Idaho range clip, which is probably the highest price paid in the Northwest.

"Half bloods ranged from \$1.50 to a top of \$1.60, this latter lot bringing 70% cents in the grease at Portland.

"Three-eighths blood brought \$1.30 to \$1.40. Quarter bloods brought relatively probably the highest prices at the sale, due to the active competition of worsted mills needing this grade. The bulk of them moved at \$1.20 to \$1.24 with a top of \$1.33.

"Papermakers Valley low quarter brought \$1.10 clean; commercial types, \$1.00 to \$1.05. Commercial type braids brought \$1.00 to \$1.03 clean."

### Washington Wool Prices

**W**E sold fine wool at the Portland sale, (May 22-23) at 62 cents from our breeding ewes and 60% cents for our yearling ewe wool. We got 66 cents for our half-blood from our ewes and 63% cents for a lot of half-blood from a mixed lot of ewes and yearlings, etc. What really surprised me, however, was that we got 63% cents for three-eighths blood wool and 62% cents for quarter-blood and 54 cents for a lot of 4400 pounds of low quarter. I think this sealed bid method of selling wool is all right.

—A. R. Bohoskey, Yakima, Wash.

### Wool Bureau Research

**T**HE first of a series of meetings sponsored by The Wool Bureau to foster the free exchange of research information between the scientific laboratories and the wool textiles industry was held at the Hotel Statler, New York, May 4th.

More than 250, among them a number of the topmost scientists in wool research, attended the meeting, which brought together representatives of the wool textile industry and those of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture. The object of the meeting was to familiarize the mill men with Government wool research at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Wyndmoor, Pa., and the Western Regional Research Laboratory, Albany, Calif.

The meeting was held as part of the Bureau's broad technical program for bringing the scientific laboratories and the mill

#### COLUMBIAS OF QUALITY

My entries in the 1949 National Ram Sale were among the top three in all classifications: single studs, pens of registered rams and range rams.

I have some good ones this year, too.

**PETE THOMAS**  
Malad, Idaho

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We'll be at THE NATIONAL RAM SALE with

3 Stud Yearling Rams

5 (1 pen) Registered Yearlings Rams

10 (2 pens of 5 each) Range Rams

**C. W. DORNEY . . . . Monte Vista, Colorado**

executives closer together and for stimulating research in fields of most significance to the wool textile industry.

Wool grease products research, wool scouring and the chemical modification of the wool structure were the principal topics of discussion. The speakers were Dr. Harold P. Lundgren of the Albany laboratory and Dr. John T. Scanlan of the Wyndmoor laboratory. Giles E. Hopkins, the Bureau's technical director, was in charge of the program.

Advances in research to improve the utility and value of the fiber in special uses by chemical modification of the wool structure were reported by Dr. Lundgren, who also foresaw possible improvements in processing. He pointed out that a number of the chemical treatments now being studied show practical possibilities.

He also explained the work of his staff on new processes for scouring wool which might improve the efficiency of the operation. As one example, he explained how scouring by suint (the dried perspiration

of sheep) salts can be made significantly more effective when controlled, small amounts of alcohol are added. Alcohol with suint not only produces higher efficiency in the removal of wool grease, he said, but it also acts to break down the wool grease emulsion, thus permitting easier recovery of the grease.

Dr. Scanlan announced that the first complete analysis of wool grease is now in progress at the Wyndmoor laboratory. The basic constituents of the grease are being determined and separated by him and Dr. W. C. Ault. When the constituents are known accurately it is hoped that some will be found which have a stable market at a price which will pay a large part of the recovery costs.

Among grease products now in use are protective coatings for precision instruments; lanolin, a basic ingredient in some cosmetics, lotions and medical ointments; and cholesterol.

### More Lambs From Open-Faced Ewes

(Continued from page 15)

pound more clean scoured wool at yearling age) and slightly longer staple than open-faced ewes. Selection may have influenced these differences as there was a tendency to retain an open-faced ewe in spite of a light fleece but to cull the covered-faced ewe with a light fleece.

The results indicate that the effect of covered faces in reducing lamb production probably comes about because the wool-blind ewes cannot see to graze well and therefore are more poorly fed than those with open faces. The wool-blind ewes probably tend to follow the ewes with open faces and therefore have to depend more on trampled and second choice feed on the range. They also have difficulty in getting to water.

Wool blindness is probably more detrimental at certain times of the year, particularly when the wool on the face has been permitted to grow for some time. Ewes are clipped around the eyes in the fall before breeding (October), in the spring before lambing (at crutching time in early March), and of course at shearing time (about June 1). Wool blindness would be most prevalent just before these dates. The most critical time is probably just before breeding in the fall as the effect of the lowered level of nutrition at this time on the wool-blind ewes most likely causes the differences in percent of ewes becoming pregnant and in number of lambs born.

The bad effects of covered faces might be partly corrected by clipping the wool

from about the eyes more frequently than 3 times per year, especially in late summer or early fall. This is not often practical under range conditions. Elimination of wool blindness through breeding and selection would be much more effective and would be permanent. Work at this Laboratory shows that the heritability of face covering is high and therefore may be readily changed by selection provided some variation in face covering exists. Progress toward more open faces may be slow if most of the ewes in the flock have covered faces. However, the work reported here shows that even slight progress toward more open faces will immediately be reflected in increased lamb production. These results show that where wool blindness is a problem open faces should be given as much or more attention in selection than any other trait.

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# AROUND the RANGE COUNTRY

## SNOW IN MAY!

May commenced in anything but a typical manner, with snow falling in many parts of the western range States. Roads in Wyoming were blocked due to the storm and livestock loss was reported. Montana was also hard hit.

In contrast, the southwestern States were suffering almost drouth-like conditions, with New Mexico especially undergoing severe conditions. As the month progressed, the situation assumed critical proportions.

Heavy feeding of livestock was necessary in many western States due to storm conditions or drouth conditions, but in most areas, livestock remained in good shape.

The month drew to a close on a note of temperature drops throughout the West, with snow reported again falling in Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana (May 25th).

## IDAHO

### Castlefjord Twin Falls County

Weather and feed conditions have been fine (May 19)—better than during May of last year. Our sheep will go to the summer range from June 1 to the 15th and the feed on the summer range is good. Lambing weather was good and help sufficient.

Crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes, out of wool, have sold recently for \$28 to \$31.

The sheep have been shorn. Herders were paid 30 cents per head, with board, the same as a year ago. About 200,000 pounds of wool in this area went at 46 to 50 cents per pound. All the wool here that has not been sold has been consigned.—*Felix Celaya*

### Twin Falls, Twin Falls County

About 50 percent of the wool in this area has been sold or contracted up to the present time (May 18). I understand there have been sales at 48 cents to 54 cents, but, of course, these are not official figures. Shearing of shed lambers has been com-

pleted, but the range lambers are now being shorn. Without board, the shearers are receiving 43 to 45 cents, the latter figure being last year's rate.

Prices on crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes have been \$28 to \$33 per head.

The range improved somewhat in May but is far below average. In April the range was as bad or worse than the drouth years of the 1930's. Sheep went to the summer range on May 15 but we need rain badly as the feed is poor.

Spring losses are above average. The poor feed made for larger spreads and required intensive herding, and the help is not too good.

Lambing was done in average weather, with an increase of about 6 percent in lambs saved this year.—*Dan Cavanagh*

## MONTANA

### Helena, Lewis and Clark County

We have certainly had a cold, wet spring in Montana. Yesterday (May 11) was the first nice sunny day we have had for a long time. There were some extremely heavy lamb losses in the southern part of the State last week due to a heavy snowstorm. It is difficult to say just how bad the losses were, but as lambing was in full progress when the storm came, you can judge for yourself. In some places the snow was as deep as four feet.

—*Everett Shuey*

### Ridgway, Carter County

There is no old grass here and the green grass is just showing (April 22) — not enough for grazing as yet. It is late this year. Sheep came through the winter in excellent shape. Lambing has commenced, with a greater number of lambs being saved than a year ago. Weather during lambing has been good. Help is sufficient, although very poor. The price on crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes for immediate delivery is \$30.

Sheep will be shorn after June 20th and the shearing rate will be 30 cents without board. I know of no recent wool transactions. My 1949 clip sold in February for 63.64 cents per pound, net to me, grading largely half blood, with fine. There were no quarter-blood or three-eighths fleeces.



The above picture comes from the Lt. Brockie Ranch, near Rupert, Idaho. Tells its own story.

About 25 percent of the ewes in this district are having twins—this seems to be a general condition in this neighborhood.

—*Alvin R. Blackford*

### Saco, Phillips County

Spring has been terribly slow this year . . . dry and cool. There is moisture enough in the ground but we haven't had the warm showers and prolonged warm spells necessary to green things up. A large portion of the trees and bushes have no more than cracked open their buds at this writing (May 23). We had adequate feed for the winter and by judicious feeding and revising a few management practices, we're just about through a very satisfactory lambing, all things considered.

—*John H. Barton*

## NEW MEXICO

### Roswell, Chaves County

I presume that 500,000 pounds of wool have already been sold (May 22), mostly right after it was delivered to the warehouses. Prices range from 52 to 65 cents, with the average, in my opinion, around 56 cents.

Most of the sheep have been shorn. Shearers, without board, received 27 cents



a head, tallying with last year's rate. That is also the contract rate and includes shearing, tying fleeces and packing the wool in bags. We furnish all bags, fleece ties and bag lacing.

Some, only a very few, fine-wool yearling ewes have sold recently at \$25 per head. Feeder lambs are being contracted at 20 to 21½ cents.

It has been dry all winter, and up to this time there is still no moisture. Feed conditions are poor and we are using supplementary feed for all sheep and cattle. Still have some old winter grass but it is of little account now. The same range is used the year around.

A few more lambs than usual were lost this year due to dry weather and range. Lambs saved will be down by 10 percent from last year's number. We had all the lambing help we needed and weather was fair.—*Carl R. McNally, Jr.*

#### **Tierra Amarilla, Rio Arriba County**

This spring is the worst I have seen for many years. The days are windy, the nights are cold, and there is no moisture. We had little snow this winter and no rain for the past two months. The grass is coming up and unless we get rain soon, our livestock will suffer (May 22).

My sheep will go to the forest reserve on July 1st. I expect the range to be good there as the altitude is about 10,000 feet.

There were no spring losses, nor winter, as the winter was very mild.

Lambing has been very good. It will run about 90 or 95 percent. The weather during lambing has been good and we were not short on help. Mixed lambs have been contracted at 20 cents per pound.

Shearing is about to commence. Shearers will be paid 27 cents without board, as they were last year.

Not much wool has been contracted yet. Mine was contracted two weeks ago at 50 cents a pound (mixed wool).

—*Carlos Manzanares*

#### **Tinnie, Lincoln County**

All the wool in this county has been sold for 50 to 65 cents. Mine went for 58 cents.

Shearing is in full swing (May 23), with shearers receiving 25 cents.

Feeder lambs are being contracted at 21 cents per pound, but only a few have been contracted. I contracted 2,000 Suffolk lambs for fall delivery at that figure.

There has been no rain and it is very dry compared to good conditions last year at this time.

Because it is so dry, we don't expect our lamb crop to be up to par.

—*Leo Pacheco*

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

#### **Twilight**

The first ten days of May were cold and stormy and the ground was covered with snow for the most part; two weeks later, spring was here (May 20). Sheep will go to the summer range on June 1, and the feed prospects are good.

A decrease of 15 percent is noted in the number of lambs saved this year. Lambing weather was partly bad and partly good.

Mid-June is the shearing date in this area. Contract rate will be 29 cents and will include all labor.—*Henry Wahfeldt*

#### **UTAH**

##### **Vernal, Uintah County**

Because of storms the first week of May, feed on the lambing range is very short, but warm days are making it come very fast (May 18). Herds had a hard time getting to the lambing range by May 10th to 13th. Sheep will go on the summer range July 1st. With the moisture we have had, feed prospects are good.

We are just starting to lamb and the weather has been agreeable so far. We had no trouble getting help. Feeder lambs are being contracted at 21 to 22 cents. Crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes are going at \$26.50 per head.

Shearing is over. It was contracted at 31 cents per head and included all work, with wool in the bag. Before shearing, wool was being sold at 50 to 55 cents per pound. There have been some sales at 60 cents since. Most of the wool in this area has been sold.—*Harold E. Davis*

#### **WASHINGTON**

##### **Eureka, Walla Walla County**

We enjoy "Around the Range Country" very much and would like to salute our local and national associations for their vigorous work in behalf of the industry.

Spring is late in the Northwest but May range feed has been excellent. At this date (May 21) it is drying rapidly on the low ranges and most bands are enroute (or

soon will be) to the mountains for the summer. Summer grazing will be good though late.

The lamb crop as a whole seems down from last year, for a number of reasons. A tough winter, inexperienced help and rough lambing weather have all contributed to the decrease. Contracting of lambs is not general here, as most of the growers prefer to own their stock until marketing time and sell on the big markets. A few early sellers have received 22 cents. Some transactions in pairs have been at \$24 to \$35 a pair, depending on age and quality of the ewes and the kind of lambs.

Shearing is completed and sales have been made from 48 cents to 60 cents per pound. Perhaps two-thirds of the area's wool is sold.

It pleases me here to acknowledge the good work done by our Government trapper in eliminating the coyote menace. A very good job has been done.

—*Frank Buckler*

#### **WASHINGTON**

##### **Vantage, Kittitas County**

Feed on the range has been ample but somewhat dry and tough—not a normal lamb feed (May 24). Sheep were shipped to the summer range on May 23; prospects for feed are good. Losses have been normal.

Lambs saved number about the same as last year. We had all the help we needed for lambing, but the weather was cold.

Several lots of mixed fats and feeders have been contracted at 22 cents. Sales of crossbred (whitefaced) yearling ewes have been at \$27.

Shearing was completed by May 1. Rate was 27 cents per head with board, the same as a year ago.

Some wool in original bags has been sold at 65 cents; and several mixed lots have sold at 50 cents. About 60 percent of all the wool in this area has been sold or contracted.—*Brown Brothers*

#### **RANGE CONDITIONS, MAY 1st**

Western range conditions were good to poor, due to continued cold, dry, windy weather that resulted in much below average development of new feed. The condition of range feed was the lowest for May 1 since 1937 and six points below a year ago and the ten-year (1939-48) average.

**Around the Range Country gives our readers a chance to express their opinions about anything pertaining to the industry or about life in general. In offering this space for free expression of thought, the National Wool Grower assumes no responsibility for any statement made.**

**Statements about the weather and range conditions are taken from U. S. Weather Bureau reports in May.**

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# THE *Auxiliaries*



## What's New in Fabric News!

**T**EXAS Tech's Division of Home Economics thinks wives of wool and mohair growers may be particularly interested in the projects planned by its department of clothing and textiles.

"Some practical experiments will be made by students when our new laboratories are ready," says Miss Mabel D. Erwin, head professor. "One project we are planning is to buy wool fabrics on the local markets, make coats and suits of them, and test them for the effect of sandstorms and the dry atmosphere on the materials. We will also compare the effect of actual wear and climatic conditions on woolen clothing, as compared with tests made in the laboratory. It will take about five years to get these results."

Special equipment with which laboratory tests will be made include a humidity room, which is necessary for any scientific testing of cloth or yarn, Miss Erwin says. There will also be a "fadeometer" to test the fastness of color to sunlight, and a "laundrometer" to test the fastness of color to laundering and the fabric's resistance to shrinkage.

"Ultra-violet ray here on the High Plains is intense," she says, "as high as it is anywhere in the United States. This has some effect on the wearing quality and fastness of materials, and we'll try to find out just what that is. Then maybe later we'll do something with testing the effect of infrared rays on apparel."

Explaining that there is a shortage of attractive novelty fabrics for home furnishings, Miss Erwin points out that the trend of the times is toward mixing wool, glass, rayon and other fibers to get fancy yarns that can be made into interesting materials.

"Really some wonderful wool and mohair fabrics could be made," she said. "They shed dirt, don't fade easily, take color well. Wool has something that other materials don't have. Mohair has a lot to contribute, too. But the new fabrics are blended. It's like a good recipe — a pound of wool for color richness; a half-pound of linen or nylon for strength; glass or rayon for sheen; cotton for launderability and cheapness."

"One reason rayon has made such rapid strides is because of the many designs available. Cotton is doing something to meet this competition, and the woolen industry should."

She believes hand-weaving is the key to developing new designs in woolen materials. Women with homemaking experience who know what women want, Miss Erwin is convinced, are the ones who should be designing new textiles for the home. Large manufacturers of woolen goods now have women with a knowledge of hand-weaving try out on hand looms new fabric ideas that designers have planned before they are manufactured on a large scale.

"Hand-weaving is more popular than it has been in many years," Miss Erwin says. "For one reason, it now trains for good positions of the type just mentioned. We also have two graduates teaching weaving in a school for the blind. Then, too, weaving is taught as one of the crafts in occupational therapy since the war. It also makes a profitable and interesting hobby for homemakers who want individual fabrics in their homes or wardrobes but who can't afford to pay for expensive novelty fabrics of original design."

Both Dean Weeks and Miss Erwin express great interest in the "Make It Yourself—With Wool" and "Make It Yourself—With Mohair" contests sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association.

## Wool Industry Sees New Bogey

**F**IT to scare the life out of the wool industry is a report of a development which will make any kind of fabric warmer than wool and serve in the place of wool in most domestic uses. This is supposed to permit extremely lightweight fabric to be used for clothing, blankets and so forth without losing the values inherent in the wool fabrics replaced.

For instance, according to Roger Milikin, president of the Deering, Milikin & Company, Inc., "it is the most revolutionary concept in the history of the textile industry." It increases the warmth of all

kinds of fabrics; it increases the porosity of the fabric, making it warm in winter and cool in summer.

In addition to the above qualities the fabric treated by the new process is supposed to drape well, be unaffected by dry cleaning and laundering and much stronger than ordinary fabric. In addition, it will be cheap.

Nylon, it is reported, is the fabric most receptive to the new process and a 7-ounce nylon seersucker cloth treated with the new process was, by test, found to be warmer than a 3½-pound, all-wool blanket. An 11-ounce woolen lining rayon satin-faced was not so warm as a treated rayon lining, so it is reported.

The process is explained with considerable diffidence as one which 'impregnates' the fibers with metallic solution which increases rather than decreases the porosity of the fabric. An aluminate solution is said to be the most effective of those used.

No name has been chosen for the process but processed fabric is expected on the market this fall.

(Reprinted from the *Texas Sheep and Goat Raiser*)

Material for the Auxiliary section should be sent to Mrs. Emory C. Smith, Press Correspondent, 1835 Yalecrest Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

## \$5,000 Penalty Sought For Wool Act Violation

Judgments of \$5,000 for failure to maintain and preserve records required by the Wool Products Labeling Act have recently been asked for in two cases, both in the United States District Court of New York. The cases were brought by the U. S. Attorney at the request of the Federal Trade Commission, against Shelbrook Coats and Lady Carole Coats, Inc., both of New York. Under the law, the manufacturers of wool products are required to keep records showing the fiber content of all wool products they make for at least three years. Failure to do so may be penalized at the rate of \$100 a day for each day of such failure. In the two cases just instituted violations are alleged to have extended over a 50-day period. These are the first cases of this kind to be filed since the Wool Products Labeling Act became effective in 1941.



## J. Byron Wilson

(Continued from page 10)

it on a theoretical basis but simply says, "It won't work." Even when some plan or idea of his own does not turn out as had been hoped, he abandons it without fuss or apparent regret. A professor of philosophy would call him a great pragmatist.

He doesn't waste his time mourning over lost causes or fighting a losing battle for them. A case to illustrate this was a plan for the government purchase of all foreign wool needed in this country during World War II, which he generously called the "Hill Plan," because he and I had once talked together and thought it seemed to be a good idea. As soon as he found that there were so many groups opposed to it that it could not be pushed through and as time went on saw that it would not have had the value it would have had if it could have been adopted earlier, he dropped it with the remark, "It's a dead duck," and turned to other plans for the sheep industry which had some chance of success.

He is progressive and almost entirely without personal or political prejudice. This is illustrated in the foregoing account of how after thorough study, he joined forces with those who believed the wool tariff could be improved by making the clean cost the basis of assessing duties. At the time many of his old time friends and associates were opposed to this.

Although a thorough believer in a high protective tariff as the most satisfactory way of maintaining the wool industry in this country, he has realized that as long as those who believe otherwise are in power in Congress it will be necessary to use other methods to help the industry. In a few cases he has lost at least temporarily a few of his more partisan friends in the Republican party because he has worked with the Democratic leaders, when they have been in power, in order to obtain what he believes is the best deal possible for the growers under the circumstances.

His outstanding trait is a single-minded and selfless service for the wool growers whom he considers his employers. After a program of action is adopted by the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, he considers it his duty to carry it out as far as is possible, even if there are parts about which he has personal doubts. Although he has often worked in cooperation with the wool manufacturers and dealers, he does it only when he thinks the wool growers have common interests with other parts of the industry. When he finds the other parts of the industry lined up against the growers as in the fight for wool labeling legislation, he stands staunchly for the wool growers although he may have many personal friends who are on the opposite side.

To me the most important side of this trait of single mindedness is shown in another way. I have observed many secretaries of organizations and so-called legislative representatives or lobbyists for a long time and so I am a bit cynical, because in numerous cases I have seen men make excellent early records of accomplishment in these positions but as soon as they achieve some skill in this field of public relations, they begin trying to feather their own nests.

Sometimes they merely try to keep a few personal enterprises going with some help from the prestige of their official positions with the growers. In a few cases they have gone to the extreme of "selling out" almost completely. I have never even seen a shadow of a tendency in this direction

by Byron Wilson, although there must have been many times he could have reaped great personal benefits by using his influence as representative of the wool growers for his own personal benefit.

He may have been wrong at times and sometimes a good many of the wool growers did not believe that Byron Wilson was right, but never have I seen anything that would cause me to suspect that he had any objective other than what he thought was the best interest for the wool growers of his State and the Nation.

I believe one reason why Byron Wilson is so highly regarded by men in industry and in government as well as by his neighbors in the West is his absolute sincerity. He is almost naive in his honest and straight-forward attitude.

His success as a lobbyist does not come from devious ways of approach or taking subtle advantage of human weakness. His moves are simple and direct. I have never heard him speak lightly of his work as the representative of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association or observed any gesture which would indicate that he does not regard it a cause worthy of his best, which he gives without stint.

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Although he is practical and fair in his personal relationships on official matters, he is a great respecter of men of outstanding ability and works with them wherever he finds them without a suspicion or jealousy. He is anxious to give them credit for all that they do to help him in his work for the wool industry. One outstanding example of this is the high tribute he has always paid to the late Fred Warren of Wyoming, whom he considered an outstanding authority on almost every aspect of the wool growing industry.

Although he has always shown great respect for the older leaders in the organization, he also values the service of young men. Instead of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association under his leadership becoming a closed corporation of old men, as sometimes happens when a capable executive secretary is retained for many years, Mr. Wilson has encouraged his associates in the Wyoming Association to bring young men into positions of prominence and to put them to work. This can be shown by the fact that the present president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Harold Josendal, is a comparatively young man and a roll call of the executives of the executive committee of the Wyoming Association will show that many young men are brought into position of prominence.

In closing, I admit that this sketch is probably colored by my long and warm friendship with Byron Wilson. He has been my friend through thick and thin and a valued member of the Wyoming Experiment Station Advisory Council which has helped me to plan the work of the agricultural research and to evaluate its accomplishments.

He has stood by me and helped me in many ways and has often given me unduly high praise in his editorial comments. Nevertheless, his practical and honest attitude have drawn me up short when I proposed something that was impractical which he knows won't work. He has spoken to me as frankly as if I had been the newest employee of the wool department in an eastern college or a new assistant in his own office.

The University of Wyoming can be proud that it has honored one of the State's great citizens by giving Byron Wilson this Doctor of Laws degree.

## Ways To Avoid Ticks

1. Wear high-top shoes over the bottoms of the trousers, or, if such shoes are not at hand, wear the socks over the bottoms of the trousers. Most ticks crawl up from the ground or low vegetation.
2. Train yourself to feel the ticks when they start to crawl on the neck or body—remove them—and don't let them escape.
3. If ticks are abundant, it is well to remove all clothing when you get back home—drop garments loosely into a large metal container, such as a 25-pound lard can, pour 2 teaspoonfuls carbon tetrachloride on top of the clothing or in a saucer set on the clothing, and put the lid on over a sheet or wrapping paper or seal it with adhesive tape.

This will kill all ticks in 8 hours. Carbon disulfide may be used in the same way, but being inflammable, it is more dangerous.

4. Never sleep in clothing worn during the day, since ticks sometimes hide in the folds and attack at night. Do not lay field clothing on the bed.

If a tick is found attached, remove it at once by grasping it with the fingers or tweezers and pulling steadily. There is no danger of the mouth parts of this species being broken off in removal. Ticks should not be left attached any longer than necessary. Infected ones are not likely to produce the disease unless they have been allowed to feed for several hours—usually six to eight.

Cauterize the point of attachment with a solution of carbolic acid or of silver nitrate. This can be done best by dipping the point of a round wooden toothpick in the solution and then drilling it lightly into the skin at the exact point of attachment. Iodine may be used if the other materials aren't at hand.

If Rocky Mountain spotted fever is suspected—all unnecessary physical exertion should be avoided, a competent physician should be consulted—and prompt hospitalization is desirable. The incubation period of spotted fever in man is 2-12 days.

—T. R. Robb, Entomologist, Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station

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